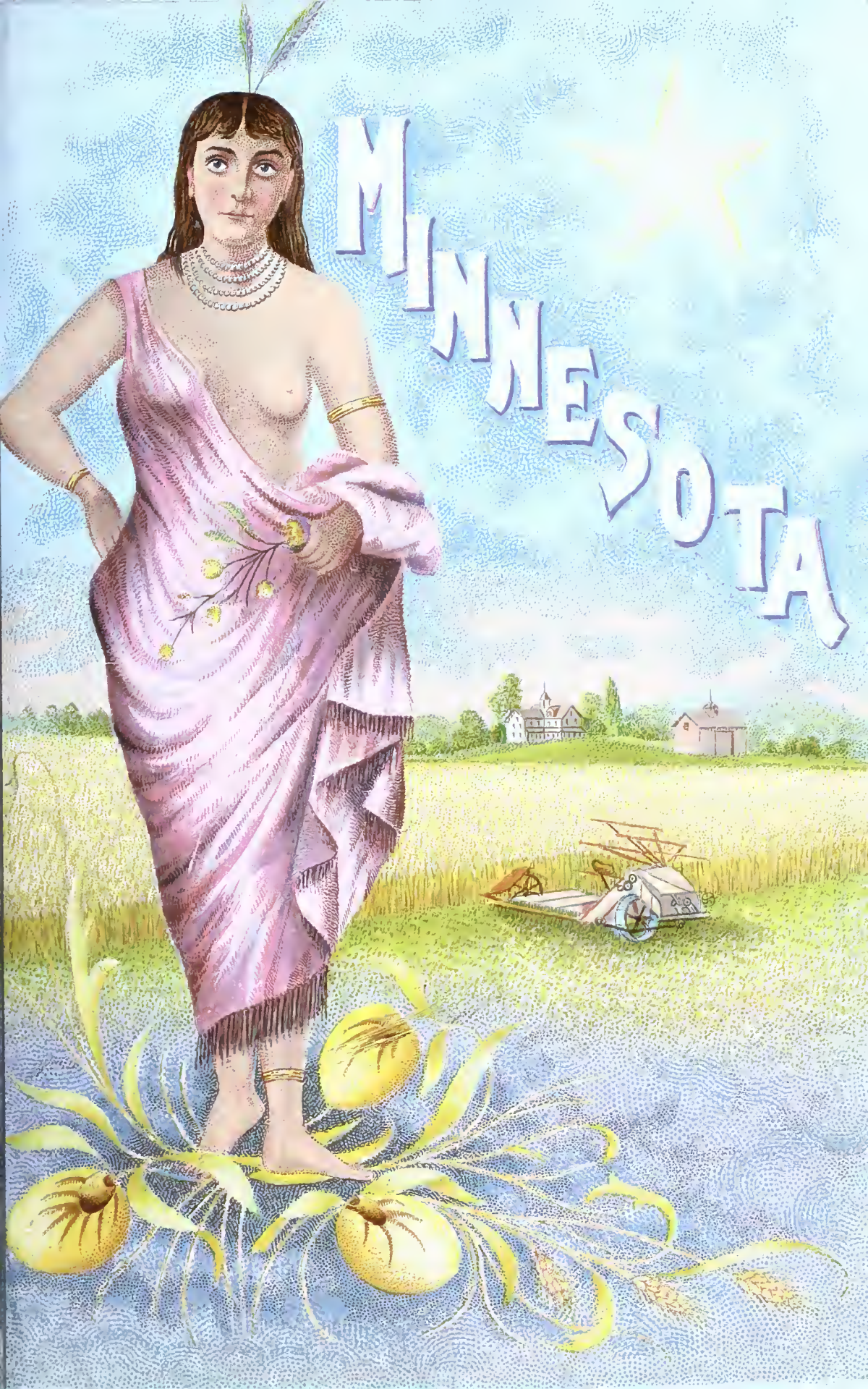
MINNESOTA

MANITOBA
LAKE OF THE WOODS
KITTSON
MARSHALL
BELTRAMI
RED LAKE
ITASCA
POLK
NORMAN
CLAY
BECKER
HUBBARD
CASS
LEECH LAKE
WADENA
OTTER TAIL
TODD
MORRISON
CROW WING
AITKIN
CARLTON
ST. LOUIS
LAKE
COOK
GRAND MARAIS
LAKE SUPERIOR
HUNTERS ISLAND
DULUTH
PINE
MILLE LACS
KANABEC
GRANT
DOUGLAS
TRAVERSE
STEVENS
POPE
STEARNS
BENTON
SHERBURNE
ISANTI
CHISAGO
BIG STONE
SWIFT
KANDIYOHI
WRIGHT
ANOKA
WASHINGTON
LAC QUI PARLE
CHIPPEWA
MEEKER
HENNEPIN
RAMSEY
MINNEAPOLIS
ST. PAUL
YELLOW MEDICINE
RENVILLE
MCLEOD
CARVER
DAKOTA
LINCOLN
LYON
REDWOOD
SIBLEY
NICOLLET
LE SUEUR
SCOTT
RICE
GOODHUE
WABASHA
PIPESTONE
MURRAY
COTTONWOOD
BROWN
BLUE EARTH
WASECA
STEELE
DODGE
OLMSTED
WINONA
ROCK
NOBLES
JACKSON
WATONWAN
MARTIN
FARIBAULT
FREEBORN
MOWER
FILLMORE
HOUSTON
IOWA
WISCONSIN
Red River of the North
Mississippi
Minnesota River
St. Croix River
Lake Superior
Rainy Lake
Red Lake
Lake Winnibigoshish
Leech Lake
Mille Lacs
Lake Itasca
Lake of the Woods
Big Stone Lake
Lake Traverse
Lake Pepin
Pioneer Press Co., Engr's St. Paul.
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MINNEHAHA FALLS.

MINNESOTA:

A BRIEF SKETCH

OF ITS

HISTORY, RESOURCES

AND

ADVANTAGES

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State Board of World's Fair Managers

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1893.

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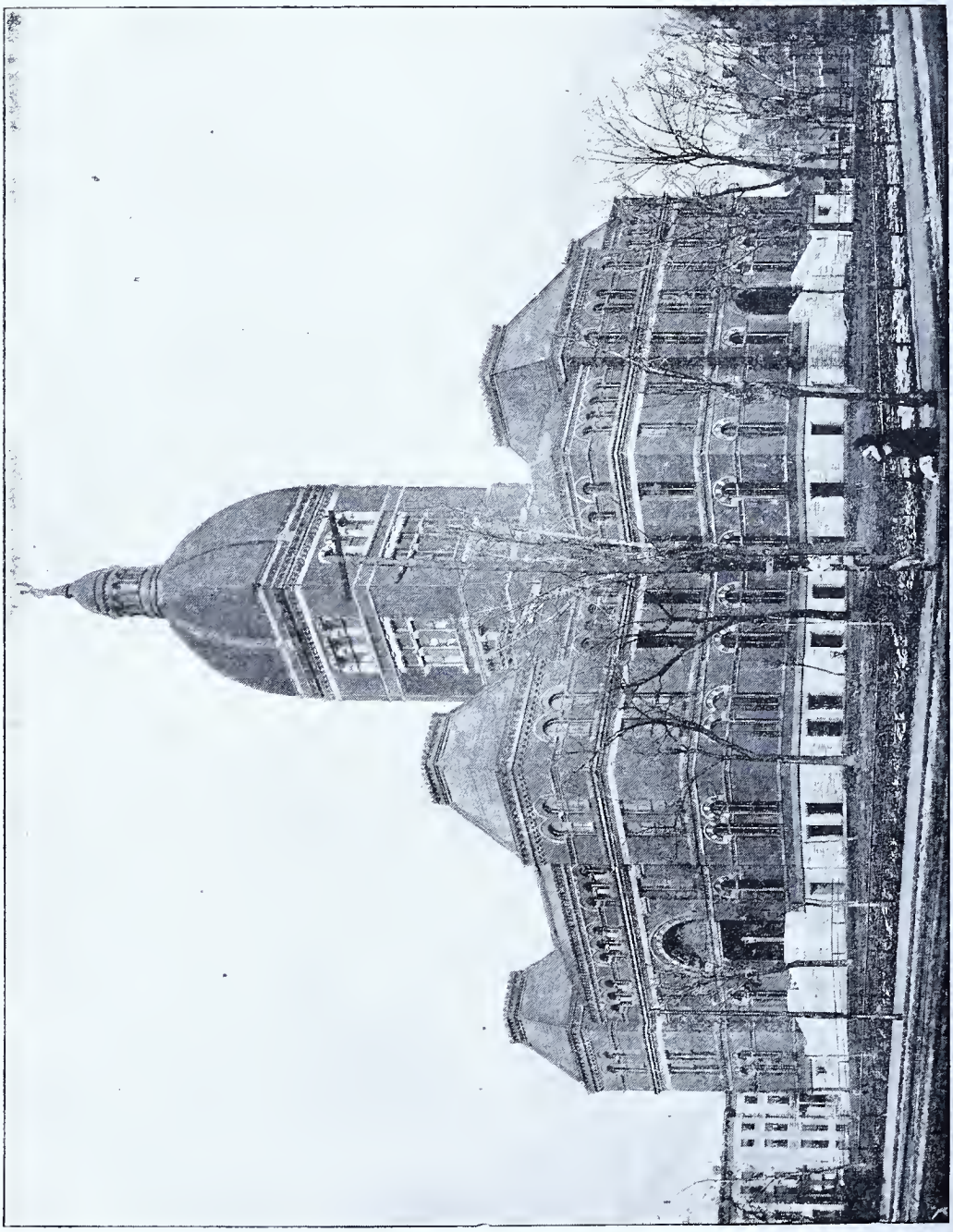
THE HISTORICAL STATE.

THE highest and the most sordid motives are inseparably linked in the progress of civilization. The desire to make new spiritual conquests and to spread the news divine among the heathen and the greed of gold are the two influences constantly at work in pushing forward its outposts. So it has been for centuries, every advance being guided by that curious mixture of interested and disinterested purposes that is named human nature. Emblems of the faith have been exalted side by side with the symbols of successful barter, and the conquest of the church has been everywhere accompanied or supplemented by the conquest of the counting-room. Especially closely united were these motives in the exploration of that territory now embraced within the boundaries of the United States which lies about the head waters of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi river. The zeal of the Jesuit workers was at its height when the possibility of bringing into the fold of Christ whole nations bound in savagery appealed to their enthusiasm and intensified its fires. The trading instinct was as supreme in the commercial world. The settlement of the American continent, so recently begun, had vastly expanded the imagination. It was time for great enterprises in church and state. And in the confines of a new world there were opportunities which the imagination could not compass. The settlements along the Atlantic coast were still in their infancy. But three score years had elapsed after the first establishment of the Puritan in New England before some venturesome spirits had braved the dangers and penetrated the wilderness of the then unknown Northwest.

This first invasion came by way of the route that exploration and civilization followed of necessity in those days. The means of communication that nature furnished were utilized. And it was because the chain of the Great Lakes lay an open road into the heart of the continent, leading the venturesome *voyageur* by an unobstructed path to his distant goal, that what is now the State of Minnesota



THE STATE CAPITOL, ST. PAUL.

came so early within the ken of the explorer. Throughout the middle third of the seventeenth century there were frequent expeditions up the great river of New France and along the shores of the mighty inland seas to which it led. Daring Frenchmen struck out into the land of savage men, to carry back with them stories of marvel and of peril that whetted the appetites of others. Of these the Sieur Grosselieur and the Sieur Radisson were the first to extend their dangerous journeyings, in 1660 and 1661, along the shore of Lake Superior into that portion of "the land of the Dakotahs" which is now known as the State of Minnesota. The pious Rene Menard, who had accompanied them a part of the way, is said by tradition to have reached the Mississippi. And as one missionary after another fixed his station on the Great Lakes and raised his sacred standard, the fur-trader everywhere followed him and emulated his zeal. It is in the writings of the Jesuit fathers that we find the first accounts of the natural features and the indigenous tribes of Minnesota. It is among the indefatigable *voyageurs* and traders that are found the early explorers who contributed to their labors and their information. In the Jesuit "Relations," of 1670–71, there is reference to the Sioux or Dakotahs; and it was at about that time that Nicholas Perrot visited the Indian tribes and made a little familiar the *terra incognita* of Minnesota. But it was not until 1678 that a formal expedition of trade and discovery was made under the leadership of a man whose name is commemorated by one of the large cities of the state. It was the Sieur Du Luth who first returned positive information of the country about the head of Lake Superior, visited in 1679, while a year later Father Hennepin made his memorable entry of the state from the opposite direction, daring the ascent of the Mississippi, which he had reached in company with La Salle. It is from Louis Hennepin that history receives its first published and authentic account of the region which is now a mighty and flourishing member of the family of American states. It was he who first saw the Falls of St. Anthony, whose motive power now drives the machinery for the vast milling industry of Minneapolis, and gave them their name. And these rifts in the wilderness, made by the adventurer and the saint, were so many open gates through which the irresistible armies of commerce were presently to enter.

For a century more this vast country was to remain practically the closed preserve of the missionary and the fur-trader. It had nothing in common with the colonies which, ignorant of its very existence, were struggling into a vigorous life, that comes of the con-

test with circumstances, along the Atlantic coast. Far to the north of them, and under an alien and hated flag, lay the entrance to it. One explorer followed another, and trader succeeded trader in the mighty expanses of field and forest still in the unchallenged possession of the Indian. Only the names of these far-away familiars of Minnesota have come down in dim legends that seem like those of another world. Perrot and Le Sueur were among the most famous of these; the former having crossed to the Mississippi river by way of the Fox and Wisconsin, in 1684, and placed a post on Lake Pepin, the first in the state; the latter ascending the great river of the continent, already famed for its size, and founding one of the first French establishments on the soil of Minnesota. British enterprise, too, is represented by the name of Capt. John Carver, who visited the Falls of St. Anthony in 1766, and whose name is associated with traditions of the site of St. Paul. But all these names show feebly through the mists of that nebulous time. A gloom like that of the great Central African forests, described by Stanley, rests upon the early era. The records contain no history, only mere episode. All that there is to tell of Minnesota in the days of the *voyageurs* is, as it were, the fragmentary reminiscences, in middle life, of an eventful but almost forgotten childhood.

From this time the vague Northwest began to emerge from chaos, and to be better known of men; although it was to be three-quarters of a century, or more, before all of the territory now known as the State of Minnesota should become one coherent and recognized commonwealth. The day of adventure had passed. The day of actual exploration, with a view to settlement and ultimate cultivation, was to begin. But the northwest territory was as yet as little defined, and subject to as many conflicting claims, as were the western portions of the grants of those great English companies whose American colonies pretended to reach from one ocean to the other.

That portion of Minnesota which lies east of the Mississippi river came into possession of the United States by the treaty of Paris. That portion lying west of the Mississippi remained under French jurisdiction until the great Louisiana purchase of 1803. On March 20, 1804, upper Louisiana was organized, consisting of what is now the states of Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa and the western side of Minnesota. This western section of Minnesota was successively a part of Louisiana, Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa territories. The eastern part of the state was known in turn as Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. During the time which elapsed

from the actual acquisition of the country by the United States, to the time when its boundaries were finally set off, and the territorial government organized, it lived only in the imaginations of men as an unknown wild, possessed by rival Indian tribes, and destined to occupation and civilization only in the remotest future. It was natural that but little public thought should be given by the young republic, occupied with the cares of its early growth, to a region as yet undeveloped and unproductive. The chief interest of the United States existed in a simple assertion of its paramount authority. It was with this in view that General Pike, then a lieutenant in the army, was sent West to check the assertiveness of the British traders, and to establish friendly relations with the Indian tribes. This expedition, purely military in its character, gave little information, and secured for the country no place in public notice. Not even the War of 1812, in which the Indian tribes of the Northern frontier played so important a part as allies of the British arms, extended its influence to the Indians of Minnesota. That territory, and its occupants, retained their primeval indifference to outside influences and complications.

It was in the years between 1817 and 1823 that there was made the first really extensive exploration of any considerable part of what is now the State of Minnesota. Maj. S. H. Long, of the United States Engineer Corps, was sent out in command of a government expedition, and this seems to mark the first definite idea of occupying the country and elevating it to the condition of semi-civilization that characterized the western frontiers of the Eastern States. It was at about the same time that the northwestern corner of the state—now the far-famed Red River Valley—received its first civilized occupancy from another direction. Thomas Douglas, known as the Earl of Selkirk, an eccentric Englishman, had proceeded to Winnipeg by the way of York river. Being familiar with the topography and capabilities of the adjoining country, he was captivated with the possibilities of the region tributary to the Red River of the North. A colony of Swiss farmers, whom he induced to settle there, became disappointed with the country; and, discouraged by the severity of its climate and by their frequent conflicts with hostile Indians, removed to the vicinity of St. Paul, where they were numbered among the earliest settlers of the state.

It was partly due to American jealousy of this interest and apparent encouragement from the side of the British possessions, that several military posts were established by the United States, and in 1824 Colonel Snelling built a stronghold which he named Fort St.

THE MINNESOTA BUILDING AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

Anthony, at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. This commanding station, as picturesque now in its natural features as it then was striking in its military advantages, is still the objective point of tourists, and is known to-day by the name of its original founder, as Fort Snelling. A tower of strength in the early days of border warfare, and a post from which the Indian tribes could be held in check, this fort still retains its strategic importance, and is the centre and base of supplies for the modern military system in the Northwest.

The tide of exploration now began to flow in with larger and fuller force. The same spirit which was pushing the people of the Atlantic seaboard and these constant accessions from European countries over the Alleghanies, directed them along the natural highways to Minnesota. The same advantages of access by two great water routes which brought the territory into such early notice, while regions south of it were still unvisited and unnamed, the same advantages which to-day give it its distinctive position—an empire of commerce and trade—contributed to its settlement in the first half of the present century. The value and importance of the Mississippi river, which was the main argument in the minds of those far-sighted statesmen who negotiated the Louisiana purchase, brought travelers, traders and settlers up the great stream from the South. It is interesting and significant that at the same time, about the year 1823, the first steamboat reached the head of navigation of the Mississippi, and mills were erected at the Falls of St. Anthony to manufacture flour and lumber for the military posts. Thus at the very beginning were laid the foundations of those great departments of industry—commerce and manufacture—whose development built up in succeeding years what are now the two largest cities of the state.

In the meantime, that portion of Minnesota reached by the Mississippi and its upper tributaries was, for the first time, accurately and thoroughly described as the result of the great expedition of Schoolcraft. The romantic, but uncertain, relations of the Jesuit travelers were now for the first time reduced to something of the basis of historical and scientific fact. The reports of the leader of the expedition, and of other members of the party, are full of descriptions which have not lost their interest to-day. As a connecting link between this period of increasing knowledge and the early days of the French *voyageurs*, stands the name of Nicollet. Aided by John C. Fremont, he explored the southwestern and southern portions of the state, and first brought to view their beauties and

THE STATE UNIVERSITY, MINNEAPOLIS.

resources. With the story of his travels and his scientific analysis of the capabilities of the country, the early period of conjecture and the era of adventure may fairly be said to come to an end, and something like definite history to begin. It must not be supposed that that missionary spirit, which had so large a part in the first appearance of the northwestern country upon the scene, had either diminished or died out. To the self-sacrificing Jesuit fathers, who gave their lives freely to the vision of a general conversion of the Indians to the Christian faith, and whose chapels and graves marked the shores of the lakes and rivers of this mighty wilderness, succeeded others, both Catholic and Protestant, who were in a more direct sense the immediate pioneers of civilization and settlement. Missions and chapels began to spring up in different parts of what is now the state, and in 1840 a little chapel was erected and dedicated to St. Paul. From 1846, when there were a few shanties, sufficient in those times to constitute a definite settlement, collected about this point, is commonly dated the foundation of the Capital City of the state.

Population, which had already increased to respectable numbers in the other territories of the Northwest, now began to press over the borders. Wisconsin had been admitted to the Union, and its boundaries set off. The attention of the time was directed in a lively manner to the need of apportioning the hitherto undivided territory of the Northwest within definite limits. It was now understood that out of that vast region first known as Louisiana would rise some of the richest commonwealths that were to be added to the union of states. The time for the creation of another had come, and in 1849 congress organized a new territory, and gave to it the beautiful Indian name, drawn from its numberless sky-tinted lakes and rivers, of Minnesota.

The first governor appointed to take charge of the infant community was Alexander Ramsey, a splendid statesman of that sturdy old stock known as the Pennsylvania Dutch. It is a measure of the wonderful rapidity of growth in the newer and richer portions of the United States, that this territorial governor, with whom begins the history of the state, in days that most of its present population either never knew or remember but dimly, is living as one of her active and honored citizens of to-day. The western boundary of the territory was then fixed at the Missouri river. The entire population was but 4,057. There were only a few hundred inhabitants in the largest town, and most of the soil of the state had not been acquired, even by treaty, from the Indians.

Negotiations with these for the cession of their holdings, and thrilling encounters between them and the settlers who were so soon to displace them, play a prominent part in the early years. Events moved with surprising rapidity. The enterprising and adventurous spirits of Eastern communities were strongly attracted to this new country, which was no longer an unvisited wilderness, and yet was so full of attractions and opportunities that any man with ambition and hardihood sufficient to brave the hardships incident to frontier life could reasonably hope to make for himself a name and standing. Everything developed at high-pressure speed. Newspapers were started, educational institutions were organized, party spirit increased, and indications of growth began in earnest. From numerous centres in different parts of the state, wherever the primitive means of communication sufficed to convey new settlers, development was begun, and the aborigines were pressed farther and farther back. Treaty after treaty was concluded with the Indians, by which they resigned to the incoming whites larger and larger tracts of their possessions.

To the original excitement that attended the rise of the country to what the people felt to be the proud position of a territory, there succeeded a sustained effort to advance commercial and agricultural progress, and to achieve material prosperity. There was still no adequate appreciation — there could not be — of the vast natural resources of the country, and even the most visionary did not foresee anything of its destiny; but that which each eye could take in was sufficient to show a splendid future, and all joined hands to make the most of the present and its opportunities. According to the American custom, so familiar to all who had a share in the organization of the territories, a complete political system sprang rapidly into existence, and the imaginations of the people already elevated them to a rank no less proud than that of the older commonwealths.

The Sioux retreated from their haunts on the Mississippi and Minnesota to reservations beyond the borders of general settlement. The position of Minnesota as a territory, with representation in congress, drew general attention throughout the country to the new territory and its prospects. It was an era of sudden and magnificent development all through the West. There was no limit to the magnificent schemes of internal development everywhere proposed, and even at this early day propositions were entertained for the completion of railway systems sufficient for the needs of a population and business a hundred times as great as existed. The evils inci-

dent to the readiness with which grants were made and properties were given away at this time were felt long afterward, and some of them still remain to plague the present generation.

Under its second executive, Governor Gorman, appointed by President Pierce, Minnesota made such splendid strides that within less than a decade after the organization of the territory it was ready for statehood. In 1857 an enabling act was passed, fixing the boundaries of the state as they now exist. Under this, a constitution was formed; and on May 11, 1858, the bill for the admission of Minnesota was signed. The population of a little over four thousand in territorial days had now increased to 150,037. With this begins the history of Minnesota as a state.

The first governor of the new state was a man whose name had been conspicuously identified with her political and military history from the very beginning. Henry H. Sibley had been a delegate in congress from the Territory of Wisconsin, and it was largely as a result of his persistent and intelligent efforts that the Territory of Minnesota was originally organized. He was freely chosen as the first ruler of the state, and continued to be prominent in all that related to its interests. It was no easy task to which he was called, and the strongest hand and broadest statesmanship could not have saved the people from the evils incident to the spirit of the times. The same restless enthusiasm which had inspired a belief that the mere dignity of becoming a territory could conquer the want of capital, and that all the accessions of a finished community could be acquired at a single stroke, was accelerated and exaggerated by this new advance to the position of a state. Already a large portion of the magnificent land grant given by congress to aid in the construction of railroads had been appropriated. The financial catastrophe that had recently fallen upon the entire country bore with a special severity upon new communities where capital was most in demand. Without monetary resources, nothing could be accomplished. The people had already determined upon their gigantic system of internal improvements; and although the public lands upon which, as a foundation, this was to be built had disappeared, they were not to be balked. The very first legislature of the state authorized the issue of five million dollars worth of bonds to aid in the building of railroads. Some rational excuse for this prodigal policy is found in the fact that defective means of communication were the great barrier to progress. Travel and transportation could be carried on freely only where the rivers afforded a natural highway. Wherever the route lay across country, the

A REGATTA ON WHITE BEAR LAKE.

stage coach still remained the only vehicle of trade. It was tantalizing enough to cast a glance at the older states, and see how wealth and population multiplied by leaps and bounds, in spite of the adverse circumstances of the times, by means of the addition of railroad facilities. A people so ambitious and so determined would not sit still and see their own condition one of comparative stagnation simply because there were denied to them the helps to wealth which they believed an inexhaustible fund of credit could supply. So the demand that this should be used to bring the railroads to them was irresistible, and an act was committed whose evil consequences were not to be removed for a quarter of a century to come. The issue of these bonds was no more successful than the lavish distribution of the internal improvement lands. To the amount of $2,275,000 they were negotiated, against the protest of Governor Sibley; and Governor Ramsey, who succeeded him in 1859, saw at once the necessity of making some adjustment with the holders. It was only the outbreak of the War of the Rebellion, with all its stirring incidents and the momentous results which it produced for the new commonwealth, as well as for the nation, that postponed the settlement of this issue which returned to plague the people at a later day.

Although Minnesota was far removed from the seat of this mighty contest, and might naturally be supposed to have a relatively slender interest in its progress and its issue, the fact is that it reacted upon the fortunes of the state more powerfully than upon those of almost any others which were not within the range of operations of the war itself. Feeling none of the losses which fell upon those occupying a soil that hostile armies trod, her industries were tremendously stimulated in every direction by the intense activity of the war period. This does not imply that the spirit of her people was one of commercial absorption and indifference to patriotic considerations. On the contrary, her military record in the war for the Union is one of which her people have reason to be proud. Within two months after President Lincoln made his first call for troops, the First Minnesota Regiment, more than one thousand strong, was mustered into service. By the middle of 1862 ten regiments had been sent to the front. From first to last, the state contributed 25,052 men, or about one-seventh of its entire population, at the outbreak of the war, to the armies of the North.

It was while this great civil strife was in progress that there occurred within the state itself the most hideous episode in its history. While the invading whites had everywhere pushed forward, regard-

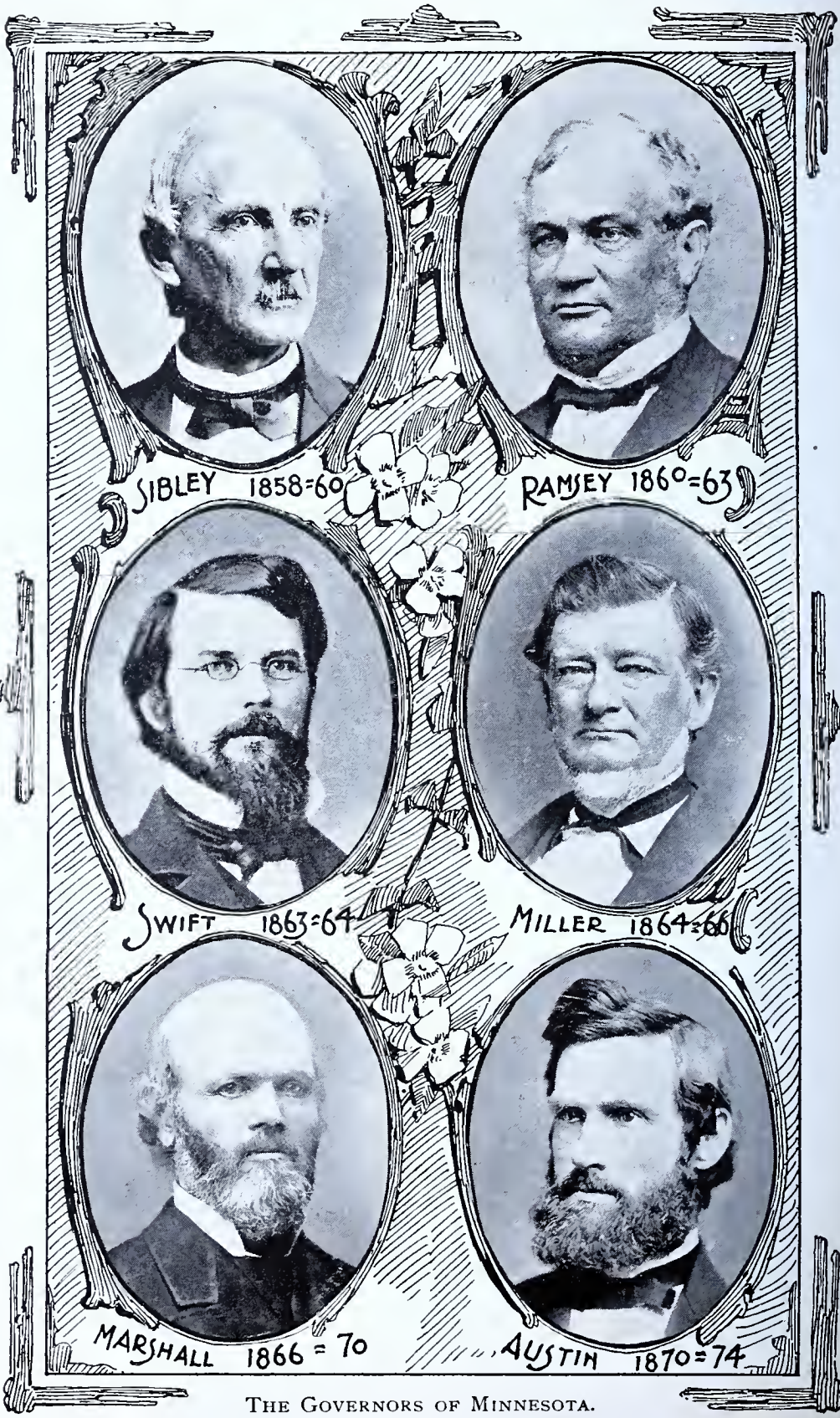
ing the country as naturally their own by right of possession, the Indians, feeling that theirs was a prior claim, had retreated sullenly before them, cherishing the bitterest and most vindictive resentment. Their long-repressed desire for vengeance now broke forth. Believing their opportunity to regain their ancient haunts at hand in this time of turmoil, they prepared for a savage onslaught on the whites. It is unnecessary to say to any one familiar with the history of the relation of the government to the Indian that many of their grievances were real. Repressed and suppressed, they prepared for their great, final stroke. The still comparatively unsettled condition of the country, and the isolation of the settlements that were now scattered everywhere, favored them. In August, 1862, the Sioux broke forth to ravage and murder. In every direction there was massacre and pillage. From prairie and from forest came tales of horrible outrage and cruel death. Strong posts like Fort Ridgley were besieged, and flourishing settlements like New Ulm attacked. The smaller villages and settlers living at some distance from their neighbors fell easy victims. The national government was too much absorbed in a struggle for existence, and was too distant in an emergency so pressing, to give succor. A force was organized within the state to give battle to the insurgent hostiles. The outbreak covered a large portion of the state, and it was not until a thoroughly equipped military force was put in the field and several severe engagements had been fought that the Indians began to yield. Before the insurrection was completely subdued, it is estimated that seven hundred persons had been murdered, two hundred, most of them women, made captives, and thirty thousand people rendered homeless. The loss in property to the growing state, whose resources were already so severely strained by her own needs and by her contributions to the nation's necessities, is placed at three million dollars. With the subjection of the hostiles, and the formal execution of thirty-eight of the most active and guilty leaders, the Sioux massacre came to an end, and with it all disappeared the last hope of the Indians that they might some time regain their old supremacy.

From this time forward the history of Minnesota is but little diversified by stirring incident. The administrations of Governor Swift and Governor Miller saw the completion of the Civil War, in which the state took so prominent and creditable a part. In the meantime there was nothing at home to break the record of steady progress. Through the vicissitudes that attend the course of every new and growing community, the people pursued their way to the

material triumphs that mark the later days. It was still a struggle against the adverse force of limited capital applied to almost boundless resources. And here, as always, it was industry, resolution and self-confidence that gave success.

In the two administrations of Governor Marshall prosperity greatly increased, and the formation of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company in 1869 attracted instant attention to the new Northwest. The project of a second transcontinental railroad appealed powerfully to imaginations but recently excited by the completion of the first. Since the eastern terminus of the new road lay within the State of Minnesota, it was seen at once what great advantages this would confer upon the state and what enormous development would follow. It is a little singular that this splendid railroad project should have first brought a general and convincing realization of the true position of Minnesota with regard to national commerce, and first compelled the public to realize the meaning of her station at the head and centre of the two great waterways of the continent. That there should lie within her boundaries the head of navigation of the Mississippi and the head of navigation on the line of the Great Lakes might have been supposed a fact to be most dwelt upon in an era when the steamboat was either the only or the principal factor in transportation; but when these water routes were seen to be parts of a grand system of communication, continental in its scope, then it was apparent to even the ordinary mind that Minnesota held the key of the situation. The time in which the Northern Pacific road was advanced to its completion, and even the time of its greatest embarrassments, when its future was most clouded and doubtful, was still a time in which the commercial relations of the commonwealth, and its commercial station in interstate and transcontinental business, were being most generally discussed, settled and accepted.

All this while new railroads were coming into existence throughout the state, and the question of railroad regulation was agitated all over the country. The farmers of Minnesota were especially active in demanding relief from exorbitant charges, and the series of decisions by the supreme court which finally defined and settled the right of the legislative authority to regulate charges on railroad traffic were in no small degree directed and incited by questions originating here. The administrations of Governor Austin were especially troubled by these issues, which were finally decided by the supreme court of the United States during the succeeding administration of Governor Davis.



THE GOVERNORS OF MINNESOTA.

THE GOVERNORS OF MINNESOTA.

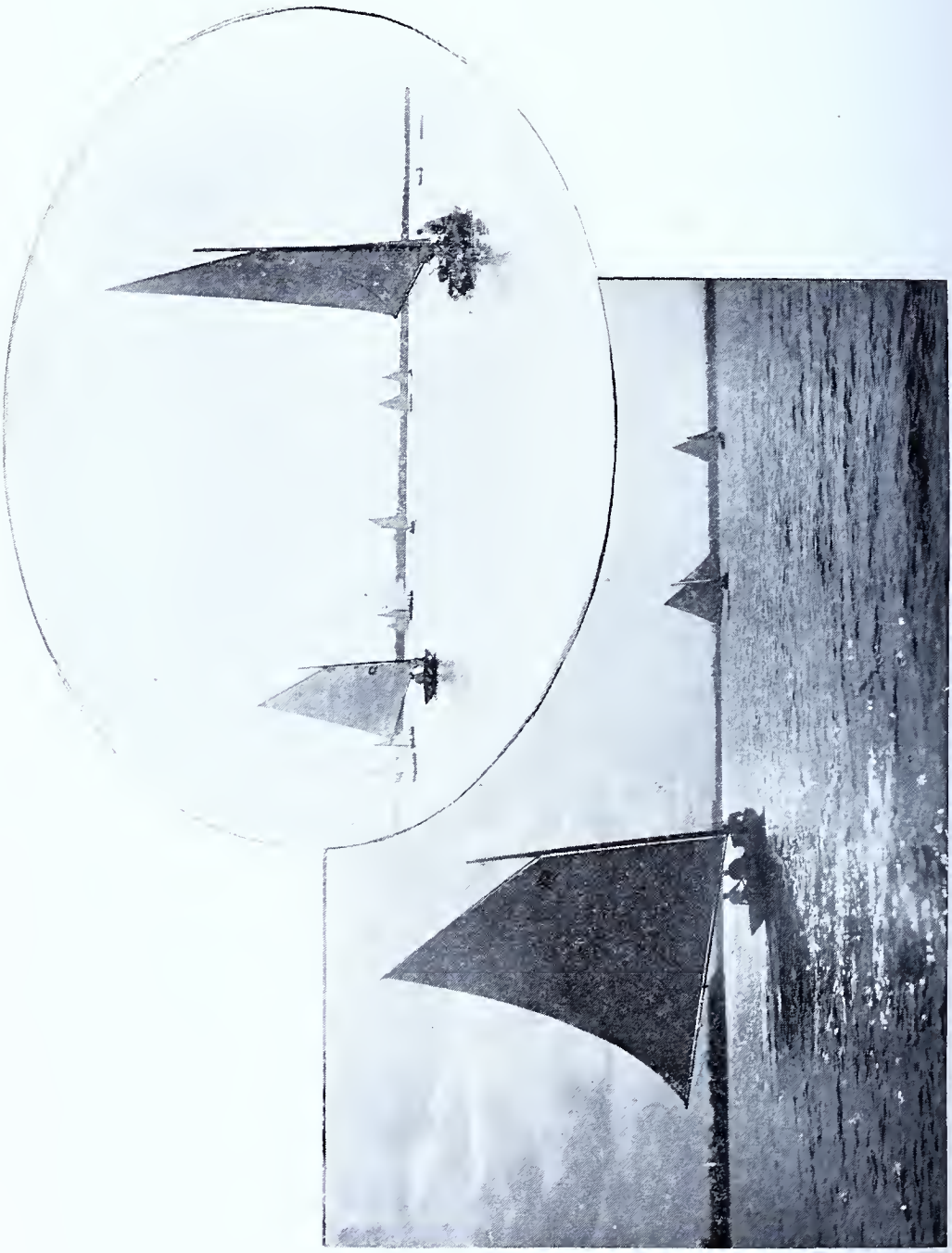
In this period, ending in 1875, there was no retrogression in the development of the state except that which resulted from several visitations of the grasshopper plague. This was quite a serious matter in a country where agriculture was as yet almost the sole occupation, and where the settlers were heavily burdened with the expenses incident to the redemption of their farms from nature. Combined with the general financial depression of 1873, it subjected the people of Minnesota to a trial so severe as to be a test of their endurance. That they emerged from it not only undaunted, but with recuperative forces so ample and vigorous as to carry them forward at an even more rapid rate, is a tribute to their strength of character, and to the magnificent natural wealth of the country upon which they had staked their fortunes.

It was in the administration of Governor Pillsbury, three times elected to the office of chief executive, that the issue of the old railroad bonds was finally and honorably settled. As has been stated, these bonds were issued most unwisely, and as the purpose for which the proceeds of the bonds were designed had never been accomplished, the credit of the state had been pledged and squandered. The people, although they had insisted upon the measure, were filled with indignation. It was tacitly assumed that the bonds would never be paid, and ought not to be paid; but the stigma which this left upon the name and credit of the state, and the reputation which it gave, especially among those unfamiliar with all the facts, had unfortunate effects. It was seen that the public honor was involved, and that the public prosperity could never reach its highest point while this remained doubtful. Year after year the issue was waged between those who held that some fair adjustment should be made with the holders of the bonds and those who contended that the payment of them would be mere robbery of the people. Finally, in 1882, the supreme court decided that an act of 1860, which required the approval of a popular vote to validate any arrangement for selling the bonds, was unconstitutional, and gave to the legislature itself full power to act in the premises. An extra session was called immediately, the bonds were paid on terms satisfactory to the holders and accepted by the state, a bitter question of more than twenty years' standing passed away, and the credit of the community was rehabilitated and placed on that high level that it has always maintained.

Within the last ten years there have been no public issues of such a character as to create a bitter contest, and no events have occurred which rise to the special dignity of history. The great commonwealth, whose foundations were so securely laid, has moved

forward steadily in her appointed path, and her people have been busied rather as architects of their own fortunes than as contributors to the chronicle of the times. In this decade, which includes the administrations of Governors Hubbard, McGill and Merriam, and ends with the present incumbent, Governor Nelson, public spirit has developed more largely and generously, and material interests have absorbed a large share of the people's activity.

As the beginning of the Northern Pacific railroad was the event which signalized one administration, its completion in 1883 makes an epoch of another. The existence and the value of this great highway are now so thoroughly familiar and accepted that it is almost difficult for the mind to run backward and realize what the consummation of this mighty work really meant in the history of Minnesota. It was the establishment and guarantee of a great commercial future, fulfilling the prophesies of the past, and making certainties of what had hitherto been regarded as the mere visions of a too sanguine hope. Not without reason did the chief cities of the state celebrate this event with extraordinary rejoicings, and not without reason did every resident of Minnesota feel that it meant something for his personal fortunes. When the little steamer that came up the Mississippi, bearing tidings of the organization of the territory, was greeted with loud hurrahs, the occasion meant less, for those to whom it seemed to mean everything, than this closing, less than forty years later, of the last link in the chain that connects Minnesota inseparably with the commerce of the East and West. Exactly ten years later there was to occur another celebration, marking a repetition of this advance; just ten years later the second through transcontinental line was opened to traffic between the cities on the Mississippi and the great city at the head of Lake Superior and the Pacific coast. The destiny which far sighted men saw prefigured in the first is assured and wellnigh accomplished in the last. It is without possible parallel that an interior state, lying midway between the oceans, should find within itself the starting point and commercial focus of two transcontinental lines. It is the witness of that unique advantage of situation at the head of the great waterways of the continent which gives to Minnesota, for all practical purposes, the position of a seaboard state, in addition to the advantages of a central location. While the multiplication of railroad facilities in other directions has kept pace with the development of the through traffic system, the actual opening to operation of each of these lines is an event worthy to rank in the historical records of a state, above the wrangling of parties and the transition from one administration to another.



VIEWS OF LAKE MINNETONKA.

In accordance with the controlling tendency of the times, the constructive ability of the later governors of Minnesota, and of the people during their terms of office, has been bent mostly to the consideration of economic questions, and to the working out of problems which have no place in the warfare of political policies. In the sense in which the word history is commonly used, the story of those years will lend but little to the annals of the time, but the wise man who said, "Happy is the nation that has no history," understood well that law of growth which will assign to this period in the life of the state the rise and progress of many of the forces that are to dominate and determine her future.

The record of material progress in all its various departments does not fall properly within the limits of a historical sketch, and will be considered elsewhere. But the political procedure of the time is full of facts that bear directly upon not only the increase of wealth but the elevation of intelligence. This is especially true of the acts in furtherance of public education, which preserved for the support of public schools and of a state university the gratuity of lands received for this purpose from the general government. As a result of this wise policy, the school fund of Minnesota is great and growing, and the resources of her educational institutions, irrespective of ordinary taxation, are better than those of almost any other state in the Union.

No one who contemplates the easily mastered outline of the history of this young commonwealth can fail to be struck with the ratio of its development that outstrips and puts to shame the thousand miracle-stories which American history has to tell. It is not yet half a century since the first rude hut rose where now stands the capital of the state. We have to go back but a century to find nothing but the relations of a few daring travels. Not fifty years ago every resource of the country lay untouched and unmeasured, save where a chance settler had placed his little farm, or the fur-trader drove a precarious bargain with the hostile Indians. In that little time, so short that a single generation almost spans it, so short that the early pioneer is yet the active man of business, so short that the children who were born in the state's infancy have hardly reached the prime of life, this great work has been accomplished. A state has been erected whose rank and place in the economy not only of the country but of the world is well recognized, and a vigorous and well-studied system of laws has been established for the government of a highly progressive people. Industries whose germ was unsuspected have grown to magnificent

proportions. The welfare of a constantly multiplying population has been guarded with almost tender care. The four thousand people, which was all that the Territory of Minnesota could boast on its admission, have become, in less than fifty years, one million three hundred thousand. The wilderness has made a place for great cities. The dignity and vigor of the sovereign state here founded are to be represented by a home for its offices costing two million dollars. The machinery of justice has been elaborated with patient care. A system of public education, which stands well the comparison with that of older communities, commands enthusiastic support, and is a source of universal public pride. Scarcely any member of the Union has made more abundant provision for the class that demand the exercise of the state's protective authority, and those classes whose misfortunes have made them a public charge. In all that pertains to the work of charities and corrections, the people of Minnesota are not to be satisfied with second place.

In this epitome of events that stand as milestones of progress since the first priest and the first trader entered through the magnificent gateway of the Northwest, to throw down the gauge of battle with barbarism, in the name of religion and of civilization, there is that which stirs the blood as swiftly as an ancient tale of battle and of conquest. It is a record of endeavor and success peculiar to the conquest of the American continent, and unlikely to be repeated hereafter in the history of the world.

THE MATERIAL STATE.

General Description.

TO the experienced traveler, with an eye appreciative of natural charms, who passes from one to another of the pleasant places of Minnesota, it fills the definition of an earthly paradise. It is marked by a diversification of natural features rarely found within such limited boundaries. The charms of woodland and prairie, of lake and river, rise before him in constant succession. Of its great expanse of surface there are comparatively few portions which would not draw instinctively the attention of the artist. Natural beauty is not commonly considered a secure foundation, or even a necessary condition of the greatness of a state; but where it exists in a high degree, combined with those qualities and resources that invite population and promise it the sure reward of future wealth, it is not to be despised or omitted from the catalogue. If Minnesota is best known abroad to-day as one of the great bread-producing territories of the world, as an agricultural empire whose possibilities have hardly been drawn upon, as a natural sanitarium for the invalid and a paradise for the sportsman, it is only because those who have not explored it have no conception of its extraordinary beauty. From the great granitic cliffs that stand sentinel along the north shore of Lake Superior, and the mountainous ridges of the northern section that have just begun to give up their enormous treasures of hidden mineral wealth, to the flowery levels of the southern tier of counties, and the rich prairies of the southwest, there is found almost every possible variety of surface and of scene. From the car window on any one of its scores of railway lines one sees flit by, hour after hour, a rolling country, here expanding into fertile plains, there ridged about with verdure-crowned hills, and everywhere dotted with charming lakes. To the early explorers this variety was most attractive, but it has no less its value and its place in a commercial development.

HARVESTING IN CLAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

Until a comparatively recent time, a people has been only less firmly rooted to the soil of its birth than the natural products of the soil itself. It is still true among the older nations of the world, that the change from place to place is one unthought of by the vast majority of people. Generations are born and die, nominally free to migrate as they please, to leave the haunts of disease and poverty and seek more eligible locations, but actually as closely bound by custom to their birthplace as the serfs of the Russian empire were to the estates with whose title they passed from owner to owner. And so it has happened frequently that the least desirable areas of country have been permanently occupied with a crowding population, while within its reach there were pleasant, wholesome and inviting spaces left unclaimed and unvisited by man. The roots that fix men where they grow up strike deep. The great emigrations of history traced their cause to the thirst for conquest or the desire to escape from oppression, rather than to any acceptance of the invitation held out by waiting lands. It was necessity, not choice, that led the first settlers of this country to America. If they chanced to plant themselves upon a barren and unyielding soil, there their descendants felt themselves compelled to remain, for better or for worse; and this habit of primitive man, still far from overcome, has resulted in leaving to the latest generations some of the choicest portions of earth unoccupied.

This fixedness of men in one locality has yielded more to the needs of life and its ambitions in the United States than anywhere else in the world. Americans are notoriously a restless people, fond of movement and of change, and yet this has not been so generally true even of them as to reverse the law of the gradual encroachment of occupied country upon unoccupied, just as one wave of the incoming tide chases another, inch after inch, up to the beach. It was the best of her inheritance that was reserved to the last. Had the movement of population been guided always by considerations of utility and the selection of the fittest, Minnesota would long ago have owned a dense population. The excellence of the soil in every portion of the state, the extraordinary and celebrated salubrity of the climate, and the beautiful scenic effects that surround a home placed almost anywhere in the state, would admit of no rivalry. As fast and as far as these qualities became known, those who had freed themselves from the ties of their surroundings were attracted hither, and the great advance in population marks and measures the actual advantage that the state possesses over others.

Nor do these fail to react in turn upon the character of the people themselves. There must be always a certain underlying harmony between the individual and the forms of nature which stand about him and are his constant companions. No student of history is ignorant of the effect that a life spent in a country of lofty mountains, in the constant contemplation of its grandeur and glories, has wrought on character. The denizens of some monotonous, marshy, fever-smitten plain cannot rise morally, mentally or materially to the level of those more happily circumstanced, and thoughtful man will trace a necessary connection between the fair topography of this state and its constant succession of natural beauties and the alertness and enterprise and successes of its people. Lands which lie in more northern latitudes are always particularly charming to the eye in those seasons when nature is in her kindest and more alluring mood. Most true is this of Minnesota. There is a depth of greenness in this verdure, a brilliancy in this unclouded sky, an exhilaration in this frost-cleansed air, a sparkle in the flowing water and a vivid leap in the sunlight which speak of natural forces made vigorous and vital in their time. To the stranger all this is delightful enough as the reward of a chance vacation, but he does not know that it is perennial. Its effect upon the life of man within and without is as sustained and oft-renewed as the manifestations of nature herself. In these homes, encircled by pleasant groves, within sight of blue waters, there must rise, of necessity, a strong, self-contained and energetic people. If at first the mere value in dollars and cents of a farm in Minnesota, or a corner lot in one of her cities, seems to be the chief consideration, it will be found later that she has other resources of a deeper and more enduring value. Where that which draws the tourist is not a barren range of cragged mountains, but the succession and multiplication of what makes a country homelike as well as beautiful, there are the beginnings of a mighty state. Minnesota has been a magnet to men by reason of qualities in which unite a commercial and an esthetic value. Below the calculations of merchant and manufacturer, railroad builder and agriculturist, her fortunes rest upon the deeper rock of this necessary harmony between human nature and human activity and its environment.

Situation and Principal Features.

The State of Minnesota lies in the geographical centre of the North American continent, practically equidistant from the Atlantic on the east and the Pacific on the west, and from Hudson's bay on the north and the Gulf of Mexico on the south. It extends through five degrees

of latitude, the forty-ninth parallel being its boundary from the Red River of the North, eastward to the Lake of the Woods, from which the final demarkation between the state and the British possessions follows the course of Rainy Lake river and its chain of lakes eastward, almost to the western point of Lake Superior. Its western boundary is regular, its eastern very irregular. Having an average breadth of two hundred and fifty miles, and measuring 381 miles from Manitoba to the Iowa boundary, it is one of the great states of the Union. The area is 83,531 square miles, or 53,459,840 acres. Of this, more than three million acres are water surface, the thousands of inland lakes being noted for their beauty. The abundance of these is not the least of its claims to distinction. The area of the state exceeds that of the whole of New England, and is nearly equal to that of Ohio and Pennsylvania combined. The surface is diversified by few elevations of any considerable height. In general it is an undulating plain, well elevated above the level of the sea, without any mountains, properly so called, and breaking in some directions into rolling prairies. Three-quarters of the surface is prairie land, though not in the sense in which the word is commonly taken, as a dead level of unbroken plain. It is a gently undulating country, now clothed only with rich prairie grasses, and now interspersed with numerous groves, oak openings and timber areas. So far is Minnesota from being a prairie state, in the same category with Kansas and Nebraska, that a large portion of it is covered with heavy forests; indeed, one of its distinctive features is what are called the "Big Woods," a body of hardwood growths about five thousand square miles in extent. This strip extends centrally through the state, being in places nearly fifty miles in width, and dividing the prairie land into an eastern and a western section. Its existence has been of enormous value to the settler and to the state itself in advancing its development. Furnishing cheap fuel, cheap raw material for a large variety for manufacturing industries, and also for railroad construction, it has been and still is a most valuable resource. Besides this, the soil which it covers is of high excellence, so that some of the most thriving counties in the state are to be found within the Big Woods belt. The general surface of this tract is more rolling than that of either the eastern or the western prairie. In the north the character of the surface changes somewhat, becoming more hilly and rugged, until it rises into the Vermillion and Mesaba ranges, but the highest point is not more than 2,200 feet above the sea level. In the northwest the surface slopes away to the level prairie reaches of the famous Red River Valley.

A MINNESOTA LOAD OF LOGS.

Its waters are more numerous and important than its woods and prairies. In its northern part are found the head waters of three great water systems. The most important of these is the Mississippi, rising in the group of small lakes north of the centre of the state, and receiving in its southward course the waters of the Minnesota and its numerous tributaries. Before it leaves the state limits it has become a great river, half a mile wide and from five to twenty feet deep, and drains with its tributaries more than half its area. It is navigable for large steamers as far as St. Paul and Minneapolis. Only a narrow water-shed separates the source of the Mississippi from the streams that flow into the Red River of the North and reach the ocean by the way of Hudson's bay. A little distance to the northeast, still other streams flow to the St. Louis and into Lake Superior. This command of the head waters of the continent is a splendid feature of the commercial and industrial advantages of the state. There are all together almost three thousand miles of navigable water in Minnesota.

The lakes of the state, estimated to number seven thousand, vary in size from those just large enough to secure a place on the geological surveys to Red lake, which is the largest body of fresh water, with the exception of Lake Michigan, that lies wholly within the boundaries of the United States. The existence of these scattered bodies of fresh water in such abundance is attributed to geologic influences. During the glacial period, rock basins or earth basins were scooped out, and hollows where water might collect were formed by the relative position of different geologic formations. When the great ice sheet melted, these became lakes and remained to give fame to the state. Most of them are exceedingly picturesque. The shores are very seldom low, very frequently rising with abruptness, unusual in a level country, into bluffs. These are covered with forests, and the irregularity of the shore line, with frequent islands in the larger lakes, lend beauty to the scene. The waters are clear and cool and abound in fish. A number of these lakes are already widely famous as summer resorts. They offer a welcome relief to the dwellers in Minnesota cities, such as few others know; for, within a few minutes' ride, the tired business man may take his choice of several cool, inviting spots in which to forget the cares of the day, and find health and strength for the morrow. Besides the sanitary advantages which they offer, the presence of this large amount of water surface, aggregating over four thousand square miles, affects the climate not inconsiderably, and moderates, to some extent, the extremes of temperature and of humidity often experienced in northern latitudes.

A VIEW AT THE STATE FARM.

It is the soil and climate of Minnesota that have made the state widely renowned abroad and that have added thousands to its population. Its extreme fertility is accounted for in part by the geological formation. The state lies within the great Azoic area of the central continental water-shed, underneath which lie the primordial rocks of the most ancient period of geology. These touch the state on the northeastern corner, and beyond stretches away in the central and southwestern portions of the state the surface drift, left behind by the great glacial epoch. This alone assures a soil of extraordinary productivity. Professor Winchell says that states that are regularly and deeply buried in drift deposits are known as the best farming states in the Union. This is particularly true of Minnesota. The rich alluvium of river bottoms is scarcely better suited for agriculture, and produces no heavier and more certain crops than the detritus of the ice age.

The only broad line of distinction that can be drawn between different portions of the state with reference to the quality of the surface layer, is the Mississippi river. Although this division admits of no scientific explanation, the counties lying east of the river have mostly a light and sandy soil, while in nearly all of those west of it is found the heavy, black loam of the prairie and semi-prairie states. The first supposition, and the natural one, was that this difference indicated a fundamental inferiority in productiveness outside of the prairie region; but as the increasing numbers of farmers brought cultivation to this supposedly poorer soil, experience showed it to be in its way scarcely second in value. This light sandy soil is generally covered more or less closely with a growth of timber, which alone should have indicated the value for agricultural purposes. Wherever hardwood grows, there is a sure recompense for the tiller of the soil who makes the clearing for his crops; and it has been found that all kinds of farm products yield abundantly in what was first thought to be the least valuable section of the state. West of the Mississippi, the soil in those portions of the state that have been comparatively well settled and reduced to cultivation is generally uniform. Though different sections vary materially in contour, and in minor physical characteristics, there is found everywhere the rich black loam which responds to any demand that the farmer may choose to make upon it. The astonishing depth of the loam impresses those accustomed to the thin surface layer in the older states, which has to be depended upon for nutriment for the growing plant. It varies in depth in different places from two to five feet; and its productive qualities are practically inexhaustible.

One who drives across country in Minnesota is hardly more impressed with its natural beauty, with the succession of green clothed billows, covered here and there with groves of oak and other timber; with its limpid lakes, and all the charms that nature has spread abroad so abundantly, than he is with the inky blackness of the ground beneath his feet. Whether the highway has been laid out with precision, and constructed carefully for permanent use, or whether he is following a half-developed and unfenced trail, fit for scant communication between isolated farmhouses and their nearest market, everywhere and at all depths it is the same. The roadbed shows no traces of the red and yellow clays that underlie the older states, and crop out at the surface as a witness of barrenness, but exhibits the fat blackness that tells of stored riches for the husbandman. So porous and sandy in its constitution as to drink up a summer shower and leave scarcely a trace, it retains well the moisture that it has received, and has given to the state the envious reputation, which it proudly bears, of having never known a real crop failure. The only infertile section of Minnesota is found in the rock region about the head of Lake Superior; but the lack of adaptation of this to agricultural uses is more than compensated by its immense mineral resources, whose wealth was unsuspected but a few years ago, whose development has even yet hardly begun, and whose ultimate product cannot be estimated.

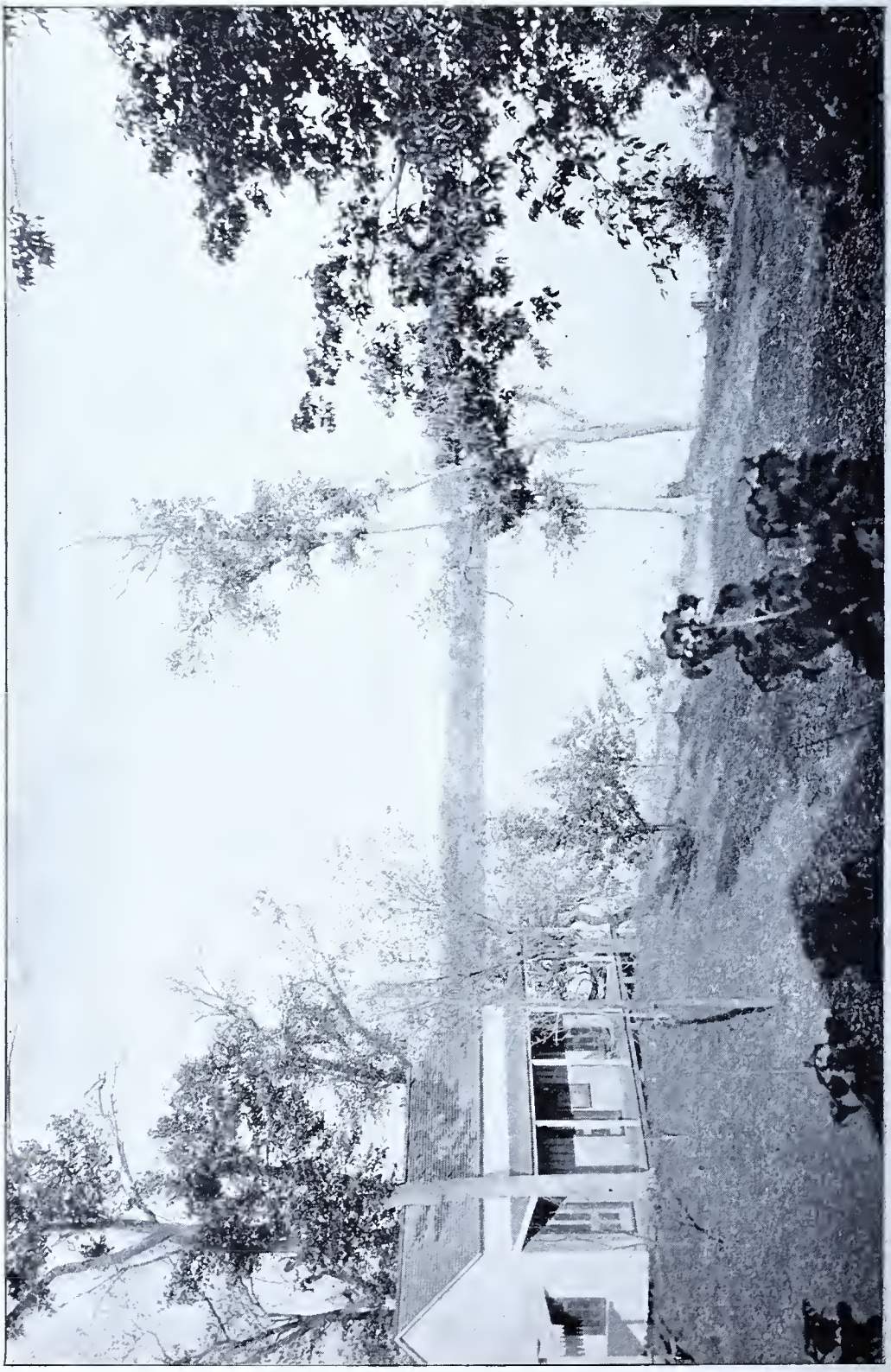
Surface Description.

Minnesota is so pre-eminently an agricultural state, its area is so extensive and the different portions of it vary so considerably in local characteristics, that its agricultural resources and capabilities cannot be appreciated upon a single survey of it as a whole. It will be necessary, in order to convey an intelligent idea of the value of this immense domain, and to suggest to the incoming citizen the special attractions of particular localities, to enter upon some description of the different sections. Beginning in the northwest, where the Red River of the North flows through the bed of an ancient inland sea, across the country into the British possessions, there is found the region which is known all over the world as the Red River Valley. On the Minnesota side are six counties of this great granary of the world. The region, indeed, seems scarcely to require a description. It has been written about and talked about and read about, until it is as well known almost everywhere as is its famous staple, No. 1 hard wheat, that is at present its most

valuable product. It is a magnificent country in every way. The surface is almost level, sloping so imperceptibly toward the valley of the river, which constitutes the northwestern boundary of the state, that the traveler who crosses it in harvest time sees only one vast sea of golden grain, stretching ever away, as far as the eye can reach, with the horizon.

The soil, of great depth, is richer than can be found in any other part of the country. Here is the black alluvial loam that is capable of yielding fabulous crops year after year through a generation, without exhaustion and without showing any lack of productive power or any need of restoration by fertilizers. There are farms in the Red River Valley which have been sown to wheat every season since the day of its first settlement, without exhibiting any diminution of productive capacity. The country is also well watered by small streams flowing into the Red river. Its especial adaptation to the production of the finest quality of hard spring wheat, and the now universally recognized value of that article for milling purposes, have caused the people of this section to devote themselves almost exclusively in the past to the single industry of wheat culture; but the country is equally well suited to diversified farming, and the growing of other grains and the raising of stock are on the increase. A characteristic of this region is that there is not a square inch of waste soil anywhere. There is no finer sight, and none more instructive as to the possibilities of farming in Minnesota, than to cross the Red River Valley country in early summer or during the harvest season. As far as the eye can reach there is one boundless expanse of waving green in the earlier time, and a sea of gold in the later. To the farmer who has been accustomed to divide his possessions into pasture, meadow and woodland, into hillside and valley, setting aside a certain portion as either unfit for cultivation or likely to bring a return too small to be remunerative, it is a delightful surprise to find here that every foot of soil is waiting for the seed and that every acre will produce its average.

To the south and east of the Red River Valley counties lies an area of indefinite extent which has been generally known, by the features that it presents to the eye, as the "Park Region." No one can draw with exactness any boundary lines within which it can be said accurately that the park region is contained. By some of the older descriptive writers the term has been applied to that whole portion of the state which extends from the pine forests of the north beyond the Minnesota river on the south, and to the Mississippi on the east. It is a term of quality, not one of location; and the



A VIEW OF MADISON LAKE.

whole interior of Minnesota has the distinctive features of a great natural park, in which the traveler is surprised not to find half-tamed deer peeping out at him from behind the sheltering branches, as within the limits of some private estate in Great Britain. This country is of a beautiful, diversified surface, with abundant lakes and streams, and vivid covering of green grove or prairie grass; thick-set with wild flowers, clumps or groves of trees here and there gathering into actual forests, and again scattered widely apart. It has a soil as fertile as any portion of the state. It has timber ample for fuel and building purposes. It is an ideal country for a home. Everything that is grown in other parts of Minnesota is grown here, and the resources of the state are the resources of the park region. It is especially favorable for the stock-raising industry, which is very largely combined with the production of the agricultural staples. The grasses are nutritious, pastures are green all summer, hay is abundant, the numerous lakes, ponds and streams afford pure water on every farm, and the dry cold of the winters is conducive to animal health. This section will produce almost everything that is raised outside of the semi-tropical latitudes. It will surprise many readers, not familiar with the climate of Minnesota, to know that Indian corn is a staple crop in the upper Mississippi Valley as far north as Brainerd, which is one hundred and thirty miles from St. Paul, and that much of it is grown still farther to the north.

While this description is intended to apply particularly to the group of counties lying south of the unsettled pine region beyond the upper Mississippi, and between that river and the Red River of the North, because these typical counties present its characteristics in their greatest perfection, it would not be inapt to include under the name of the park region the entire state, with the exception of its mineral-bearing belt and its prairie stretches. To the north and east of these portions of Minnesota lies a mighty area whose resources are still largely unmeasured and untouched. This section, lying between the Rainy Lake river on the north, and the head waters of the Mississippi on the south, and reaching from the Red river counties on the west to Lake Superior on the east, includes a large part of the area of the state. Up to a very late date, and even after the resources of Minnesota had been explored with some carefulness, people were content to think of this undeveloped region as a waste of forest and stream, with occasional outcropping of bare rock. Within the last few years this view was changed, and it is now a common and well founded opinion that this territory will contribute to the wealth and prosperity of the commonwealth in the future as much as any other portion of the state. At present it is

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WORLD'S FAIR MANAGERS

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WORLD'S FAIR MANAGERS.

noted especially as a mineral and lumber-producing district. Stationed out of the path of the beaten routes of communication, untroubled as yet by the roar of the locomotive, and lying almost as silent as when the early explorers first penetrated its fastnesses, it has not been brought into that close communication with the central markets which is necessary for development, but the value of its timber and the abundance of its lately discovered mineral deposits are bringing it into new prominence. With the exception of the extreme eastern portion, which is largely mineral land, it is also a region well suited to agricultural industry. The soil produces abundantly all kinds of vegetables and grasses, the country is interspersed with natural meadows, and many varieties of building stone are found in profusion. The whole territory is traversed by innumerable streams and dotted everywhere with beautiful lakes. It will not yield a wheat crop equal to that of the Red River Valley, but it will produce liberally everything that the farmer wishes to raise, and reward his industry with a plentiful harvest. One of the great surprises of the people of Minnesota has been the recent exhibit of the capacity of a part of this territory for iron production. Another surprise will greet them later on when they learn that the mighty counties of the northern frontier, some of them equal in extent to a small state, are to be ranked in the not too distant future as precious possessions in the world of agriculture.

South of this country, and between the Mississippi river above St. Paul and Minneapolis and the State of Wisconsin on the east, lies a group of counties, somewhat uniform in their characteristics, nearly all timbered and watered by streams whose little tributaries touch almost every corner of its great area. Originally valued chiefly as a forest region, whose timber was carried to manufacture from the upper waters of the Mississippi and the St. Croix, it has been found capable, when the surface covering of trees is cleared away, of producing splendid crops. It is especially adapted to vegetable products, and has a great advantage in its nearness to, and its ample means of communication with, the markets furnished by the three largest cities of the state. Less picturesque in its outer seeming than the park region, it is not less gifted by nature in its abundant natural resources of every kind. These have been kept in the background only because the lumber industry first attracted attention and first invited capital to gather immediate returns. But as fast as the pine forests and the hardwood timber are sufficiently exhausted to leave the soil open to cultivation, it has been found especially favorable for agricultural industry and has been making great strides forward in favor.

The Minnesota river, from its source on the western boundary of the state, but a little distance removed from the Red River of the North, to its junction with the Mississippi river at Fort Snelling, takes the course of a mighty outstretched arm. Lying in the bend of the elbow, and heaped above it in profusion, extending north to the park region proper and the Red River Valley, lie a group of counties which include a large and extremely important portion of the state. Situated just south of the centre, and extending from its western boundary to where they almost touch Wisconsin on the east, they comprise all the varieties of soil and all the different kinds of resources known to the state at large. Crossed by the Big Woods district, this section is well supplied with valuable timber lands, changing gradually at its western limit into the true prairie feature. Its general characteristics are essentially those of the park region, of which it is really a continuation and is generally called a part. This portion of the state occupies somewhat the same place in industrial development as in geographical situation. It lies between the old and thickly settled counties of southern Minnesota and the enormous partly vacant spaces along the Canadian boundary line. Its settlement is more recent than that of the south and southeast, and older than that of the more distant north. As it lies directly tributary to the great dual city, and has abundant lines of transportation to this centre, it has been developed with great rapidity. Both by the gift of nature and by the work of man, it is most favorably situated for every kind of agricultural industry. It is neither as exclusively devoted to wheat raising as the Red River Valley, nor has it given such prominence to stock raising and dairying as the section lying farther south, but its progress has been uniform and steady, and its outlook is of the brightest. In this great zone of Minnesota which stretches from east to west, a little south of the centre, there is room for a population two or three times as large as that which now belongs to the whole state.

"Southern Minnesota" is a name almost as characteristic and almost as well understood as the "Red River Valley." It includes in its eastern portion some of the oldest settled country in the state, dating back to the time when population came in by way of the Mississippi river. It may be made to apply generally to all that area which lies south of the Minnesota river, and extends from the Mississippi on the east to the western boundary. It partakes in general of the character of northern Iowa, and combines, in the mildness of its climate, the richness of its soil and the wonderful diversification of its industries, greater attractions and

THE STATE INSANE ASYLUM AT ROCHESTER.

advantages than can be found, perhaps, in any other state of the Union. The eastern portion, lying within easy range of the Mississippi, was called in the early nomenclature, the "Garden Region" of the state. Being the portion first entered, it is so thickly settled and has been placed so thoroughly under cultivation that it exhibits all the marks of an old and highly developed community. It is neither distinctly hilly nor, properly speaking, prairie country, but is well broken up by small valleys, and is admirably suited to all the great industries that find their home in Minnesota. Small towns and larger cities abound, and the traveler in this section finds nothing except the evidences of abounding thrift everywhere, to remind him that he is in one of the newer communities, instead of one of the older states of the Union. Farther to the west the country changes gradually to the prairie type. There is a large area here, most beautifully diversified, which unites in a remarkable degree the rolling prairie that belongs to southern Minnesota with the more broken surface of the park region. The lakes are as numerous and beautiful, and as much sought after as resorts, as are those lying farther to the north. Not inappropriately has the name of the "Undine" region been applied to these beautiful counties, which unite with the gifts of nature all the advantages belonging to an early settlement and a high state of development. The circuit of Minnesota, which began with the prairie of the Red River Valley, ends with the prairie of southwestern Minnesota. Here the rolling highlands and the wooded districts of the central portion of the state recede almost imperceptibly into the true prairie land found in Iowa and Nebraska. It is a beautiful country of mingled plain, woodland and lakes, with a soil as rich as any in the state, rivaling in fertility that of the Red River Valley. Every kind of agricultural industry can be pursued profitably here, with a choice of market that offers especial advantages to the producer.

This survey of the features of the state as a whole does little justice to its beauty and its natural resources. The fact is that there are few portions of the country where that which delights the eye is so constantly united with that which appeals to self-interest. Through all its great extent, covering an area amply sufficient for the comfortable support of more than ten millions of people, Minnesota has, in the strict sense of the term, no waste land. Every acre is available. There is just enough of mineral land to give it place as a metal producer, and to afford an ample basis for the manufacturing industry of the future. There is enough timber land to have built up and supplied one of the leading and most prosperous in-

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terests of the past, and to offer for the future an adequate supply of fuel and of lumber for domestic purposes. And everywhere there is farm land; farm land of a quality unexcelled anywhere in the world, and so situated that the careful husbandman can be sure of a comfortable income. Beauty and comfort, activity and pleasure, health and wealth, are offered in profusion by every portion of the great state. Its agriculture necessarily stands foremost in the list of occupations and resources. By its wheat and its lumber it first became known in the markets of the world; but it is by no means limited to these, and in the second stage of development, upon which it has now fairly entered, all the other sources of its wealth are becoming better known.

Climate.

The climate of Minnesota has undeservedly taken a place of almost secondary importance in later descriptions of the state, owing to the absorbing interest in its rich opportunities for material development. Where the reality or the potency of wealth is already present to the eye, considerations affecting the health of the individual are generally barred out of view; yet it was to the salubrity of its climate, and especially to the remedial qualities of its atmosphere in cases of certain specific and deadly diseases, that Minnesota owed its earlier renown. The moment the attention is diverted from the purely material, it will be seen that, as against any other section possessing anywhere nearly equal, or even superior, facilities for the accumulation of a fortune, the supreme healthfulness of Minnesota's climate gives the state a great advantage. A very large portion of its earlier settlers were drawn hither by the hope of recovering from advancing and fatal disease. It is still the resort of great numbers of invalids yearly, who are less conspicuous only because of the increasing tide of population that flows in under the direction of grosser forces. The state is a natural sanitarium, and there is only one other in the Union which can for a moment compete with it in this respect. It was no uncommon thing in the earlier days to find that, out of any ordinary company assembled, one-half or three-quarters had first removed to Minnesota under physicians' orders, as a last and almost forlorn hope of checking the inroads of deadly disease; and wherever this change was made early enough, before tissues and organs were so far destroyed as to baffle the recuperative energies of nature, the result was uniformly successful. Of

the population of Minnesota to-day, there are tens of thousands living in the enjoyment of average or more than average health who hold their lives solely upon the tenure of their residence here.

There are two kinds of complaints for which the air of Minnesota is an unfailing specific. It is a climate in which miasma does not exist. There is no poison more difficult to eradicate from the human system than that which is introduced in the fever-ridden valleys of warmer latitudes. Indeed, of late years malaria has left its accustomed haunts and spread into regions that were formerly deemed inaccessible. From this scourge Minnesota enjoys perfect immunity. Not only is malaria never contracted here, but those who come to the state carrying in their systems the germs of the persistent affliction find that these either succumb to the tonic properties of the new air or else lie dormant forever. Malaria and Minnesota are irreconcilable terms. Still more important from the sanitary point of view is the beneficial influence of this atmosphere upon pulmonary complaints. Consumption, the most deadly scourge of this age and of all countries, passes so lightly over Minnesota that it can scarcely be said to exist. Every form of pulmonary complaint which has not already reduced the subject beyond the reach of any remedies yields rapidly and surely to the healing influence of this pure and elastic air. This is so well established a fact in the medical world that physicians from every part of the country, who are familiar with the climes of different sections of the Union, do not hesitate to recommend to their patients, unless in the last stages of the disease, a sojourn in Minnesota, and rarely is their advice without avail. With the exception of the State of Colorado, which it fairly rivals, there is no spot on the surface of the globe so favorable to the recovery and longevity of the consumptive as Minnesota. And its great recommendation is that it does not, like the soft airs of Southern resorts to which such sufferers are often dispatched, relax the system and leave it subject to new attacks, but leads to a complete and constitutional recovery. The man whose lungs were dangerously affected becomes, after a few years' residence in Minnesota, no longer either an invalid or a convalescent, but enjoys a return of vigorous health. Among the advantages of the state, this should not have, and never will have, a secondary place. All other things being equal, the joys of a home must be determined largely by considerations of healthfulness. A state that presents a list of material resources so abundant and complete, and can add to it the highest assurance of a life reasonably free from the ills that flesh is heir to, has a long start in the race.

The causes of the exceptional salubrity of the Minnesota climate are only partially explained on scientific grounds. In addition to its elevated station above the level of the sea, which is a guarantee of purity and lightness in the atmosphere, and to the relatively small humidity so favorable to weak lungs, the air of Minnesota has a tonic quality of its own which exhilarates like wine and is a mysterious and powerful health giver. It has been called the most normal climate on the continent. Nowhere else are the transitions of temperature and moisture so completely in harmony with nature, and so thoroughly accommodated to the laws of organic life and growth. The peculiar dryness of the air, which is its most characteristic quality, mitigates the severity of both winter and summer temperatures. No misconception could be greater than that which forms its judgment of the ordinary Minnesota winter from the readings of the thermometer. It is probable that nothing but actual experience can convince those who have never resided here of the fact, established by the consenting testimony of citizens and strangers alike, that the number of degrees which indicates the cold of winter has no relation whatever to the same number of degrees recorded at a lower elevation and in a region of greater moisture. It is no fiction and no attempted palliation of climatic severities, but the mere, familiar, commonplace truth, as the every-day life of more than a million and a quarter of people can demonstrate, that the Minnesota winter, even in its severest estate, brings less of suffering and involves smaller hardship for the same degree of exposure than the winter of any other Northern state. Intense heat and intense cold are not realized in experience here.

Not only do temperature and moisture affect directly the health of a people, and almost as directly their happiness and their capacity for activity and successful industry, but they have a direct and material bearing upon the progress of agriculture through the development of plant life. As to temperature, the day in this state during the summer is two and one-half hours longer than in the latitude of the Ohio river. The familiar experience of growing plants under glass shows what must be the natural effect of this forcing process.

Long-continued sunlight drives the vegetation forward at a rapid pace. The suddenness with which winter changes to summer in this climate, almost without the interposition of any middle season, is due to this lengthening of the day. And so it comes about that during the relatively shorter period allowed for the maturing of grain and plant life, it makes actually greater progress than in much

A VIEW OF DETROIT LAKE.

milder climes. The familiar exaggeration of being able to see the grass grow falls little short of the truth. The crops that are sown weeks later here than in other sections are ready for the harvest by the same date.

A similar effect is produced by the peculiarly regular and systematic distribution of the annual rainfall. The average annual precipitation in New England is forty-three inches; on the Pacific coast it is over sixty inches; in Minnesota it ranges from twenty-three to twenty-five inches. This latter amount is amply sufficient for all the needs of agriculture if all of it can be utilized. The excessive rainfall of the Pacific coast and of the Eastern and Middle states passes away in heavy and frequently disastrous freshets, and is unfavorable, rather than otherwise, to the operations of the husbandman. The greater part of the precipitation of moisture in Minnesota occurs during the spring and earlier summer, just when it is needed to furnish the juices of the rapidly springing plant. The melted snow of winter—and there is far less snow in Minnesota than in states a few degrees farther south, owing to the well-known law that precipitation diminishes in high latitudes—is retained by the underlying stratum of clay, and acts for weeks as a reservoir to supply the needs of vegetation. It is reinforced by the frequent and copious showers of early spring and summer, so that the fields receive their supplies of moisture just when and where it is most needed. It is well known that irrigated lands relieve the farmer from the caprices of nature, and are, as far as water supply is concerned, ideal for his purpose. The distribution of rainfall in Minnesota resembles more a system of irrigation, presided over by nature herself, than anything else. The annual mean temperature of the state is about forty-four degrees. A more detailed idea of the climate may be obtained from the following official summary of the weather for 1892, an average year, as recorded by the signal service officer at St. Paul:

"A review of the weather for St. Paul and vicinity, for the year 1892, shows a mean barometer corrected for elevation of $30\frac{7}{100}$; mean temperature of $42\frac{4}{10}$ degrees; mean cloudiness on a scale of 0 to 10; 0 representing an entirely cloudless sky and 10 an entirely cloudy one, of 5.6; mean relative humidity, 72.3 per cent; total wind movement, 63,531 miles; highest wind velocity and direction, 44 miles from the northwest. The winter months were warmer than the average, but the deficiency in temperature during the spring and summer seasons made the annual mean nearly one degree below normal. The excessive rainfall of the summer season caused an excess of $4\frac{73}{100}$ inches for the year. The last killing frost of the

THE DULUTH HIGH SCHOOL.

spring occurred May 20th, and the first of the fall season was noted October 19th; light frosts occurred in October prior to the 19th, but there was an interval of five months that the thermal conditions were not adverse to vegetation. All the staple crops had matured long before October 19th. The maximum temperature of the year was 90 degrees, registered June 11th and 12th, and July 23d. The minimum was 25 below zero, registered January 19th. The temperature went to 90 degrees and a small fraction above it on two days, and it went below 32 degrees, or freezing point, on 159 days. There were 87 days during which the temperature remained below 32 degrees at all times, both day and night. The year had 96 clear, 49 fair and 121 cloudy days, and 106 on which $\frac{1}{100}$ of an inch or more of rain or melted snow fell. There were 31 electric disturbances of the nature of thunder storms. April and May had two each; June and July eight each; August had seven, September three and October one. More insidious manifestations of that force were seen in the seven auroral or polar light displays, of which three were observed in July, three in September and one in October. There were only two hailstorms during the year."

Cereals.

In any general description of the resources and industries of Minnesota, agriculture necessarily has first place. This is not, as will be seen, because the state is in any way unadapted to other and diversified manufactures, but because, wherever there is a fertile soil, the first settlers turn naturally to it for sustenance. With productive qualities so bounteous as those possessed by the famous black loam of the Northwest, this has naturally been the first resource, and this avenue to independence and comfort has been traversed by the greater portion of our incoming people. Dependence upon tillage of the soil has already made this one of the great agricultural states of the Union. It is known all over the world as one of the few states where the famous No. 1 hard wheat is produced. While other crops have been introduced with profit, to diversify agriculture, wheat raising still has first place. There were fifteen counties in the state which produced last year over one million bushels of wheat each. By the report of the Department of Agriculture, the area sown to wheat in 1892 was 3,552,626 acres. From this were produced 41,210,000 bushels, valued at $25,138,382. This product will slowly but steadily increase for a generation to come, whatever the market price may be, as larger areas of soil

are brought under cultivation. But its relative importance, as compared with other branches of the farmer's occupation, will not advance in proportion. Other grains will be raised more largely, and stock raising grows year after year into greater favor.

It is commonly and erroneously supposed that the state lies too far north to be included in the list of corn producers. The refutation of this is found in the figures of the same report, which show that in 1892 there were 896,012 acres devoted to this grain, yielding 24,192,000 bushels, valued at nearly nine million dollars. Like all northern latitudes, Minnesota is especially well adapted to the culture of oats, and the demand at good prices is always constant. For the year 1892, the report above quoted states that the oats acreage in Minnesota was 1,596,090, yielding 43,573,000 bushels, valued at over twelve million dollars. These are the figures of an ordinary crop year. What the state can do in an extraordinary year is shown by the record of 1891. In that especially favorable season the wheat crop of Minnesota was 53,207,022 bushels. It was in that year that the phenomenal luxuriance of the crop caused all farmers of the Northwest to send out a cry for help. Threshing machines and men were sent into the great wheat-raising counties to help take care of the surplus product. With their utmost activity until winter set in, not all of the grain could be garnered. In the following spring threshing was resumed from the grain which had spent the winter in stack or in the shock, and all of it was saved, most of it in prime condition. An incident like this only 'serves to show what latent capabilities reside in the splendid soil of the Northwest, and what almost unbounded room remains for development, when the surface of this state is well occupied, and cultivated by the painstaking and frugal methods adopted in regions where nature is less lavish of her bounties.

The statistical records, which are open to all, show that the miscellaneous products of agriculture — the smaller grains, like barley, rye, and buckwheat, fruits, hay, potatoes, etc., yield amply wherever their culture is attempted. It is unnecessary to burden these pages with columns of figures that are embodied in the report of the commissioner of statistics. It seems sufficient to say that the production of these commodities, and the return received from them by the farmer, is quite proportionate to the gain derived from the culture of the great staples of the state. It is sometimes more instructive to present a few instances of individual experience than to dwell upon generalities. Books have been published made up wholly of letters from scores of successful farmers in different parts of

the state relating their personal experiences. These romances of real life tell more vividly than pages of description the facts of farm life and progress in Minnesota. A single instance may be quoted here as showing what can be done by a settler with a reasonable capital to begin with. This man purchased six hundred and forty acres of railroad land of the ordinary quality for five thousand one hundred and twenty dollars.

It may be remarked that there are millions of acres yet unappropriated to be had at as reasonable prices. This man seeded three hundred and seventy acres with wheat, and a small part of the remainder with oats. He broke ninety acres of the balance, and upon a portion of this planted corn to give fodder for his cattle, and flax, which is a capital breaking crop. At the end of the harvest he realized seventeen bushels per acre of wheat, fifty-five of oats, ten of flax and ten of corn. Reserving sufficient for seed, he sold his wheat for five thousand seven hundred dollars cash; his oats for six hundred and sixty dollars; his flax for one hundred and fifty dollars, and his corn for seventy dollars, a grand total of six thousand five hundred and eighty dollars cash receipts for one year's labor. This repaid the entire cost of the land, leaving nearly one thousand five hundred dollars balance for expenses. Such experiences as this are not by any means confined to farmers who can bring considerable capital with them; and exactly similar stories can be repeated, with names and dates, over and over again, in the case of men who brought nothing with them to this new country except stout hands, a disposition to industry, and faith in their own future. The state is full of prosperous farmers who began with nothing, mortgaging their credit for their hope, and paying their debts with the products of a few years' labor.

Flax.

Another product, too important in the economy of the state to be passed without special notice, is flax. Two-thirds of the flax raised in the United States grows in Minnesota and in the Dakotas. The yield in this state in 1891 was 4,378,300 bushels. It is a capital crop for new land, flourishing luxuriantly on the rank soil, and breaking it for cereal grains. There is a steady market for the seed, which has been for the most part the objective point of the farmer. It is probable that the fiber of the plant will become more important, commercially, than the seed. The manufacture of linen has already been started in the state, with eminently satisfactory results. A bale of fiber produced and cropped in this state was sent to Ireland

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for manufacture, and returned in the shape of the finest linen products. It seems to be only a question of time, and no great time at that, when the flax plant will be valued for its stalk more highly than for its seed, and when the increase of manufacturing facilities at home will elevate this to the first rank of our agricultural products.

Small Fruits.

The cultivation of small fruits, berries and vegetables is an increasing and profitable industry. The rich black soil, which produces the cereals in such abundance and of so high a grade, is equally suited to these. Minnesota apples have taken premiums in competition with exhibits from states of the more southerly latitudes; the crab-apple and plum grow wild, but the soil and climate seem especially kind to grape culture, and it is destined to attain large proportions. Melons, strawberries, celery, and all the table delicacies produced from the soil are grown here with great success. Their flavor is at once richer and more delicate than that of the same commodities in other sections, and the slight difference in the time of maturing between the producing seasons in this and other states supplies the Minnesota market with fresh produce during an unusually large portion of the year. The growth of large cities has contributed to the increase and profit of market gardening, and the supplying of the needs of a metropolitan population with fruits and vegetables gives employment to a large number of people. Currants, raspberries, strawberries and blackberries flourish in profusion. Cranberry marshes abound. Bee-keeping is successful and remunerative. Both native and imported grasses grow abundantly, and hay and pasture supplies are unfailing.

Sugar Beets.

A comparatively new industry, to which great encouragement has been given of recent years, is the cultivation of the sugar beet. The success obtained in this direction in California and Nebraska, especially the latter, gave great encouragement to the belief that Minnesota is well adapted to beet culture. The people of Minnesota consume annually from fifty million pounds of sugar upward, and their state lies in the very belt whose soil and climate sustain the belief that they may ultimately produce this for themselves. Beets have been raised in different parts of the state giving nineteen tons to the acre, and containing from ten to eighteen per cent of sugar. This is a much higher proportion than is usually obtained in countries where the beet sugar industry is established and prosperous. Farmers who have already tried the experiment have real-

The State Reform School at Red Wing.

ized as large an income from their beet crops as is usually obtained from the more customary products. The experiments of European countries have made it reasonably certain that beet sugar is destined to supplant the product of the cane in all the markets of the world. The fact that the sugar beet yields a sure and profitable crop in this state, that its cultivation presents no particular difficulties, but fits in well with our system of agriculture, the inducement offered by the national government to develop this industry, and the large and increased demand for sugar, promise to make this in a few years one of our most important agricultural interests.

Stock Raising.

The very first business to be combined successfully with the raising of grain crops, and to secure the farmers from the serious dangers of reliance upon a single product, was the raising of stock and its correlative, the marketing of dairy products. On no soil and under no conditions is it safe for the farmer to stake the results of the labor of an entire year upon a single crop. One untoward accident, a week of unseasonable drought, a disastrous storm or an early frost may wipe away the labor and the reliance on an entire season. It took a few disastrous experiences of this kind to teach the farmers of Minnesota a necessary lesson. All the conditions had already pointed unerringly to the stock raising and dairying businesses as among the most favorable occupations in which a man could engage, and they have convinced themselves of the fact by most satisfactory trials. The grasses, grains and root products of the state give plenty and variety of food for cattle, and the abundance of pure water and the coolness of the climate are ideal conditions for the production of choice grades of butter and cheese.

The intelligent and far-sighted efforts of some leading citizens of the state turned the attention of the people at an early date to the propriety and profit of introducing improved breeds of cattle. Great encouragement has been given to this interest, and the increase in the numbers of domestic live stock is not more remarkable than the improvement made by the introduction of blooded animals. In 1892 the cattle in the state numbered 1,023,731, of which 412,230 were milch cows. The hog population, for which there is always ready sale at a high market price, was 288,819. The state could count 359,223 sheep, with a wool clip of 1,265,161 pounds. It is a matter of the simplest computation to show that excellent profits can be made from the raising of cattle, which fatten on the root products of the soil, give as much milk and make as tender and juicy beef as cattle fed on corn.

Dairying.

Side by side with the stock-raising industry there has naturally grown up a great dairy interest. There are, indeed, large sections of the state in which the creamery is as important a centre of activity as the grain elevator, and in which the people have attained a high degree of prosperity from the sale of dairy products. There are in Minnesota 152 creameries and fifty-three cheese factories, and the number is constantly growing. The butter product of 1891 was 27,203,945 pounds, and the cheese product 1,374,555 pounds. These articles are of a high grade and secure the best market prices. In addition to these the shipment and sale of milk has reached large proportions, with the growth of the demand supplied by the multiplication of cities and towns. It often escapes notice that secondary or minor products of the farm, such as some of these described, are sufficient alone to compensate the farmer for his labor, and to insure for him and his family a comfortable support, leaving his grain, when sold, a cash income and perhaps wholly a net profit. This is only another of the values of diversified farming. Within a very few years the various industries growing out of the production and sale of live stock will share on equal terms and contribute in equal measure to the progress and gains of farming in Minnesota.

Lumbering.

While the lumber industry, which was the very first to be established in the state, and for a long time stood at the head, has been overshadowed in the extraordinary advances of agriculture, it has by no means disappeared or even decayed. If the prairie has superseded the pinery as an attraction for the settler, it still retains its place as a leading contributor to the prosperity of the state. The timber supply of Minnesota is by no means limited to pine. Of an extensive portion of its area that was originally timber covered, a large fraction, heretofore described under the name of the "Big Woods," produces hard and soft wood of the deciduous varieties. Aside from the cutting of white pine for the general market, these other woods are now being utilized very largely in the various processes of manufacture. There are billions of feet of pine timber standing in Minnesota, and millions of acres of forest land practically untouched. Notwithstanding the heavy annual lumber cut, it will be many years before these great reserves show signs of exhaustion, and with proper care they are sufficient to supply the ordinary needs of the population for all time to come. It will be

years yet before the mighty expanses of timber land in the Red Lake region, only recently acquired by congressional action from the Indians, and the still more remote and almost unknown regions about Rainy lake and Rainy Lake river, shall have yielded their resources for the benefit of man. The government surveyors estimate the white pine timber on Red Lake reservation alone, which is soon to be thrown upon the market, at eight billion feet. This will be sold at auction to the highest bidder. It is certain that for a generation to come the production of lumber will stand among the foremost industries of the state.

Mining Interest.

The man who should have predicted twenty years ago that Minnesota would become famous by means of her mineral resources would have been laughed at for his pains. It was known, even earlier than that, that there were deposits of iron ore in the Vermillion region, but it was supposed that these, like similar finds in most of the states, were of inconsiderable extent and trifling value. All this has changed. The opening of mines on the Vermillion range stimulated prospectors, and later discoveries on the Mesaba range have proved that a large tract in the northeastern and northern portion of the state is underlaid with Bessemer iron-ore beds, whose commercial importance the people scarcely yet dare to measure. The developments in this district, and the facts that have been ascertained from the working of mines and the prospecting of innumerable claims, cannot be passed over briefly or confined within the limits of a running paragraph. It has been deemed proper, in such a *résumé* of the resources of Minnesota as is presented here, to make the mineral resources and the mining industries of Minnesota the subject of a special and comprehensive article.

Prices and Profits.

A view of the conditions of life and production in Minnesota would be incomplete which should leave out of the account a consideration of market prices. The prosperity of a people depends not only upon the aggregate of their crops, but upon two sets of prices,—the prices received from the yield of the farm and the prices paid for commodities that must be purchased as necessities of life. In both these directions the outlook is more favorable now than it has been for a long time in the past. If wheat does not sell for as much, or anywhere near as much, as it did ten years ago, and if the articles of consumption that cannot be derived from the farm cost

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY BOARD.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY BOARD.

very much below what they did ten years ago, the balance is still on the right side. This is exactly the case. The general reduction in the prices of all manufactured articles, resulting from activity in invention and from the adoption of improved and economical processes in manufacturing industries, is a familiar national condition. The consumer everywhere gets the benefit of it. The progressive reduction in freight rates, which is proportionally greater in the West than in the East, and the very marked expansion of manufacture within the boundaries of the state for the home market, have secured to the people of the Northwest a full share of this decreased cost of living. A careful comparison has been made of the retail prices of all staple commodities ten or fifteen years ago with those of the present day. A similar comparison has been made of the market prices of farm products at corresponding dates. Without cumbering these pages with the masses of figures involved in this computation, it is sufficient to say that the people of Minnesota are far more comfortably circumstanced for a comfortable living, and for amassing a reasonable competence from their labors, than they ever were at any other time in the history of the state. These are the conditions which enable the farmer to realize the profits that he deserves from honest industry, and as these conditions are permanent and progressive, the prospect is that his situation will be more satisfactory in the future, as they continue to operate.

Manufacturing.

It is natural and proper to dwell most at length upon the agricultural side of industry in Minnesota, because these resources are so great and were the first to be developed. It must not be inferred from this, however, that manufacture has no place in its industrial *regimé*. The rise of manufactures, except in a country naturally sterile or only semi-productive, belongs not to the first but to the second, or even the third, period of its history. At the very beginning, as has been seen, the two great manufacturing interests of milling and lumbering were joined with agriculture. Their progress has kept pace with its advance, and to them has been added, year by year, other branches of manufacture, as rapidly as the needs of a growing population made the establishment of them profitable. Since Minnesota became a state of more than a million souls, the home market has reached sufficiently large proportions to induce capital to create here the manufacturing plants essential to satisfy its wants. First came the ruder forms, for which the state had on hand ample raw materials. The making of paper, the manufacture

of brick and of the commoner kinds of pottery, rough iron work and a large variety of crude manufacturing have been done in the state for many years. The growth of the principal cities to dimensions that give them a respectable rank among the centres of population of the United States, and more especially the multiplication of railroads and the securing of reasonable freight rates, has stimulated manufacture in other directions. A conviction on the part of the people that it was folly to send thousands of miles for the commonest necessaries of life which could equally well be produced among them, giving occupation to workmen and retaining the profits of industry within the community, has caused a special and concerted effort to be made to diversify and increase the list of Minnesota's manufactures.

Added to the immense flour and lumber business of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth and other large cities, there is an important class of manufactures for which the iron ore, now taken from the state itself, affords a basis. Some of the largest concerns in the United States have been quick to see the advantage of erecting either central or branch plants for their business in the state. The increase in manufacturing within the last five years has been greater than that of any other line of business, and its ratio has probably not been surpassed in any state of the Union. The more recent development of this work has prevented the compilation of complete and reliable statistics of the state as a whole; but the records supplied in the annual summaries of the year's growth in the chief cities show that Minnesota is in a fair way not only to produce everything required for her needs, except commodities that must necessarily be imported, because they cannot be produced here, but that she is destined ultimately to stand high in the list of the great manufacturing states. It is estimated that there are over forty thousand employes engaged in her manufacturing industries to-day, while the capital invested aggregates tens, and the annual output hundreds, of millions of dollars.

A MINNESOTA GRANITE QUARRY.

THE SOCIAL STATE.

NOTHING about Minnesota offers a greater surprise to the stranger who stops long enough to become acquainted with the inner facts of her present status than the high level of education, intellectual activity and general culture of the people. The greater number of those who have fixed their residence here on account of the attractions of the climate are people of some means and great refinement. The West in general, and Minnesota in particular, has attracted to it the most ambitious and progressive of the younger generation from older communities. The ability which asks only an opportunity for success is seldom second rate. Not only in the large cities, which vie with those of the East in devotion to letters and in the march of intelligence, but in the small towns, and even in outlying hamlets, will be found a plentiful leavening of highly educated people; college graduates, and families who have come to a new country to rebuild the fortunes that were broken elsewhere by the casualties and reverses of business life. While the foreign-born population of the state is large, it is drawn mainly from the sturdy Teutonic stock, to which American character owes some of its noblest qualities. Even when these immigrants are unlettered in their first estate, the second generation takes its stand side by side with the ablest of the American born population. It follows from this that the social standard in Minnesota is not a low one, that social problems have been industriously studied, and that the institutions which mark a well-ordered community have been planted here and cherished with an intelligent and tender care.

Population.

The increase of Minnesota's population is a fair index of the progress of the state. The first official census, that of 1850, gave the territory a population of 6,077. Just before the admission of the territory as a state it had grown to 150,037. In 1860 the federal census credits it with 172,023. This number was considerably more

A SCENE ON A MINNESOTA FARM.

than doubled in the next decade, notwithstanding the dreadful drain caused by the War of the Rebellion and the great Sioux outbreak in 1862, which frightened away a large number of settlers and of intending immigrants. In 1870 the population was 439,407, and in 1880 it had become 780,773. There was no pause in this extraordinary increase. The years between 1880 and 1890 added tremendously to the muster-roll of the people. The records of the eleventh census give the population of Minnesota as 1,301,826. The increase between 1870 and 1880 was seventy-eight per cent, and between 1880 and 1890 sixty-seven per cent. The latter rate of growth, however, is much more remarkable, since the percentage is calculated on a basis vastly greater. The numerical increase in the last decade was over half a million, and the rising tide still flows in. Minnesota now ranks twenty-sixth in the Union in population, and before another ten years have passed will have more than reached the half-way stage.

Wealth and Taxation.

The aggregate of both personal and real estate property valuation has not fallen behind the growth in population. In 1881 the assessed valuation of all property was a little less than three hundred million dollars; it is now about six hundred and ten millions. This is the magnificent total which has grown from a valuation of only a little over five hundred thousand dollars in 1849, and less than thirty-eight million dollars in 1860. The per capita wealth of the population was $114.10 in 1849, $213.59 in 1860, $330.51 in 1880, and is now over four hundred and fifty dollars. The state being young, and its finances having been managed with admirable economy since the time when the railroad indebtedness was incurred, the rate of taxation is one and seven-tenths mills. This levy is being reduced, and it is probable that within a short time all the ordinary expenses of the state government will be met by the receipts from the tax on the gross earnings of the railroad companies, which now contribute to the state treasury more than one million dollars per annum.

Debt.

The entire bonded debt of the state amounted in 1890 to $4,365,000. For the redemption of this there had been accumulating an internal improvement land fund, set aside for that purpose. By the proceedings of the funding commission created in 1891, the old bonds were called in, and a transfer of funds was made and new bonds were issued at a lower rate. The total debt of the state is

now only $2,154,000, nearly all of which pays three and one-half per cent interest. Of these new bonds not more than one hundred thousand dollars worth can be redeemed in any one year, and to effect this yearly redemption there is a levy of one-tenth of a mill on the taxable property of the state. As the limit of bonded indebtedness is exceedingly rigid, and the sentiment of the public is such that any proposition to increase it would meet with unanimous opposition, there is no possibility of a further increase of either the public indebtedness or the tax rate.

Education.

Our educational system, from the state university that has grown from less than three hundred to nearly one thousand five hundred students within the last few years, down through the state normal schools, state high schools and graded schools of various degrees to the lowest primary departments, is a source of just pride to all our people. The creation and maintenance of this magnificent system of educational institutions, and the certainty of its development and perfection in the future, rest not so much upon the resources of taxation as upon the great fund created from the land endowment of the public schools. When Minnesota was admitted as a state, so little was known of her soil and climate, and so little was it dreamed that she would develop into the rich and independent commonwealth which she has now become, that the government was perfectly willing to be unusually liberal in its disposition of public lands within her boundaries. For this reason, and by the zeal and persistent efforts of her representatives, a grant of two sections in each township was secured for public school purposes. This endowment, worth very little in cash at the time it was given, has been carefully guarded, and has increased in value with the progress of the state, until Minnesota is now in possession of a public-school fund more than double that of any other state in the Union, excepting only Kansas and Texas, and very much larger than either of these alone. The permanent school fund of the state, derived from the sales of these lands, now amounts to over ten million dollars. The permanent fund of the state university is over one million dollars. In addition to these, state and local taxes are levied, which bring the annual revenue in support of education to a total of nearly three and one half million dollars.

The school fund will be augmented later by one-half the proceeds of the sale of such swamp lands as the state retains after the grants to railroad companies and other institutions have been filled. It is

to be still further increased by the proceeds of mineral land leases. The state does not sell its lands situated in the iron-producing district. They are leased for one year, in small tracts, on a cash payment, and after mines have been developed a royalty of twenty-five cents per ton is paid on all ore taken out. The proceeds of these mineral lands go to replenish the public school fund. The state auditor has expressed an opinion that the revenue from this source will, in time, equal that derived from the sale of all the school lands in the southern half of the state. It is estimated that this fund in its entirety will ultimately reach eighteen million or twenty million dollars, and it is not impossible that it will exceed even these figures. This suffices for the education of over three hundred thousand pupils in those institutions which are a public care, in addition to the abundant colleges, private schools and denominational schools to be found everywhere.

It would be impracticable to give a complete list of all the institutions which come properly within the description of the social state, but it should be mentioned that those which fall within the domain of charities and corrections are so well provided, and conducted upon principles so modern and advanced, as to have given Minnesota a high place in the correctional and philanthropic work of the nation. The great asylums for the insane, the noble homes for the deaf and dumb and the blind, the state public school for destitute children, the splendid institution for the care and education of the feeble-minded, the beautiful reform school, where wayward boys and girls are fitted for self-sustaining and happy lives, and the state reformatory, managed according to the most progressive ideas, are some of the public institutions in which Minnesota takes a pride as great and as well founded as that which springs from the exhibit of her rapidly increasing wealth.

THE WAITING STATE.

NOTWITHSTANDING all that has been shown of the rapid advance of population, and the enormous strides taken in agricultural development, the fact remains, although a surprise to most citizens of Minnesota themselves, that less than seven million acres, or about one-eighth of its entire area, have been brought under cultivation. More than forty-five million acres of this great and fertile domain are still awaiting occupation. Of course, the greater part of this is in the hands of private owners, from whom it may be procured at reasonable figures; but there is still a large quantity of public land to be had upon the most favorable terms. The government lands available to the settler, under the provisions of the homestead act, amount to between six million and seven million acres. The larger bulk of this lies in the as yet mostly undeveloped counties of the northern tier. A great portion of it is land of a high agricultural value. The tracts contained in counties now covered by forests will produce abundant and valuable crops when the timber has been cleared away as does the prairie. The state lands consist principally of the unsold sections set aside in each township for the support of public schools, and of the lands still remaining in the university fund and of internal improvement lands. These amount to over half a million acres. State school lands are appraised as rapidly as it is deemed best to dispose of them, none being salable by law at less than five dollars per acre. Auction sales are held periodically in the different counties, and land of the best quality, within a few miles of railroads, schools, villages and all the accompaniments of high civilization in an old established community, is struck off at very little above this figure.

Not all of the swamp land grants have been adjusted, so that the balance reverting to the state cannot be accurately estimated, but it is believed that there will remain available from this source not far from a million acres. The railroad lands in Minnesota are, in some respects, the most desirable. Their situation, within a short distance of the railroad right of way, gives all of them ready communication with the principal markets and makes them easy of access. Since

the companies desire to dispose of them rapidly, they can be had upon very reasonable terms. They amount, in all, to between three million and four million acres. It would be impossible to calculate even approximately the amount of land actually available for settlement within the state, but it is enough to afford cheap homes in the most eligible localities for all who may choose to come. It is these lands which constitute Minnesota's choicest dowry. It is these that draw the settler from far and near, and minister to his hunger for a home of his own.

In this brief summary an attempt has been made to state concisely, with such enthusiasm as the facts seem to warrant, but without the least exaggeration, the principal resources of Minnesota and the attractions it has to present to both labor and capital. There is no branch of human activity ministering to human comfort and tending to the prosperity of the individual which does not find here a welcome and an opportunity. If the virgin forests and the unbroken prairies first appealed most powerfully to eager and waiting labor, the progress of development and the thousand upspringing needs of a growing population and a more complex civilization cry out to-day as clamorously and extend a promise equally secure to capital. Nowhere is there a better field for investment, whether in the broad acres which return a slower but surer rate of profit or in the commercial and manufacturing enterprises which spring into existence and ramify as if by magic in the cities and towns. In times of famine there has been plenty in Minnesota. The eras of severest commercial distress and financial depression affect it in common with the whole country, but touch it lightly and leave no wreck behind. It is full of the intense activity and fine emulation that characterizes the American spirit. In its institutions and its laws it aims to form part of the advance-guard of modern civilization. If there be anywhere to-day a spot in which vaulting ambition may be satisfied, in which both plodding industry and brilliant daring may find commensurate reward; in which that longing for the best, which we name culture and refinement, may find no uncongenial atmosphere; in which the eye itself may note the steady steps of progress and the very heart-beats keep time with the movement of the age; in which there is space for the play of the great enginery of modern business and social life and room for unbounded hosts of quiet homes where peace and happiness prevail, it is in this state, for which the seers of the past and the confident ones of the present unite in predicting a central place and power in the final triumph of destiny in this our common country.

THE COUNTIES OF MINNESOTA.

In giving a sketch of the counties into which the North Star State has been divided, the limited space of this publication prevents anything like an adequate description. The object of this work is to impart a little knowledge of this great Northwestern commonwealth to those who desire to inform themselves upon this comparatively young member of the sisterhood of states, and also to show that within her borders, which lie within the lines of the finest modern civilization, there are opportunities as great as nature ever gave to man. The dissatisfied farmer of the Eastern seaboard, who is discouraged by the scant returns from fields which have been plowed for a hundred years, and stimulated from time to time to temporary activity by fertilizers, can find in Minnesota lands, which yield abundantly even under methods of cultivation which, judged by Eastern or European methods, would be considered almost slovenly. The wanderers from across the sea where land is so valuable that fences are often omitted in order that the narrow space which they would occupy may be given up to cultivation; where estates are so costly that their owners form almost a distinct aristocracy, can find within this Northern state lands at so low a price that they might well be considered to be without cost, and which will return, under the same methods of cultivation employed on the continent, profits of which they have never dreamed. It is for these seekers of better conditions and those who desire to secure homes and lands of their own, that this short sketch is prepared.

Every county of Minnesota has some advantages and some attractions which are shared by all its sisters, and each county has advantages which are its own individual inheritance. While thousands of emigrants are being carried by the transcontinental railroad systems to the great states of the Pacific coast, whose resources it is not intended to decry, and while infected by the enthusiasm aroused by glowingly painted pictures of Pacific coast opportunities, hundreds of farmers who have become prosperous in the Northwestern States, travel further toward the setting sun, it is well to remind them that here, within a state which is at the very centre of present national develepment, there are opportunities for material advancement more

general and fully as great as are offered by any state in the West, while those who dwell here have all the social and educational opportunities which the best developed commonwealths of the country offer. In other words, the present generation is secured opportunities for growth, and the coming generation is given the advantages of culture which some Western states cannot offer.

It is impossible in a treatise of so restricted a nature to go extensively into the resources of each county. It is possible only to mention some of its leading industries and to call attention to lands which, in nearly every one, are to-day lying idle for lack of a population great enough to call into activity all of its fertile acres. The seeker for a home has but to select the portion of the state which he prefers, and then to scan the opportunities offered by the counties in the general division of his preference, and the way is then open to build to the extent of his powers.

It has been stated that only between one-eighth and one-ninth of the area of this great state is actually under the plow. Of course, many lands are held by private owners as a matter of speculation. The lands available for settlement are divided into three classes: Government lands, state lands and railroad lands, which have not been sold. The government lands amount to nearly seven million acres, scattered throughout the state; although most of them at present are in the northern part. By act of congress these lands are available to settlers under the provisions of the homestead law. In the future, with the opening of Indian reservations to settlement, another vast quantity of government land will be thrown into the market. Most of this land is of the highest agricultural value; much of it being covered by forests, which are themselves a source of profit to the settler.

The second class includes the state lands, which consist principally of unsettled sections set aside in each township for the support of public schools, and of the lands still remaining in the university fund and internal improvement lands there are over half a million acres. These lands are appraised from time to time and disposed of, none of them being salable at less than five dollars per acre. To show the prospective settler that this price is rarely exceeded it may be stated here that the average value of school lands appraised and unsold is only a trifle over this amount. The amount of state lands may be roughly stated at four hundred thousand acres.

The third class is composed of lands granted to railroads within the state, which, as a rule, lie within a short distance of the railroad right of way. This gives them all ready communication with the

principal markets and makes them easy of access. In a Western community where a railroad has been the leader in development such accessible location is of the greatest advantage. Then, too, the restriction placed upon the sale of school lands and the price which has been set upon them, low as it is, has sometimes been below that asked for railroad lands of equal quality, equally desirable and more conveniently located, and this makes the latter, perhaps, more easily obtainable for settlers. Another point in their favor is the reasonable terms offered as an inducement for their purchase. Generally a small part of the purchase price has to be paid down, but sometimes even this is not required. Payments of interest, with some installments on the principal, are all that is required to enable an industrious settler to acquire actual title to a farm for much less money than he would have to pay as rent in other states. These lands in the aggregate amount to over three million acres, and there are others which will be available when they have been located and surveyed. In addition there are swamp lands which will eventually come into the market.

In addition to all these lands, it should be stated that there are large numbers of farms which, of course, can be purchased which are already under cultivation, and there are large tracts of land which are in the hands of private companies. It is thus made impossible to estimate with any degree of exactness the immense amount of land which is really open for settlement within the confines of this state and which constitutes the foundation for its future wealth. It is these lands, however, which are relied upon to attract settlers to the commonwealth and satisfy their innate desire to possess homes of their own.

Aitkin.

Not one one-hundredth part of the more than one million acres included in Aitkin county is under cultivation. The soil consists of a sandy loam, with a clay subsoil, and the county is timbered, with the exception of some fine meadow land. "Everything," says the Hon. T. R. Foley, "which can be raised in any section of Minnesota, with the possible exception of corn, can be raised profitably here. Aitkin county held its first agricultural fair in October, 1890, and the quality and quantity of the products placed on exhibition would have done credit to any portion of the state. Half of the magnificent sheet of water known as Mille Lacs lies in the southwestern corner, and the whole county is well watered by tributaries of the Mississippi, which

traverse it diagonally. These streams and the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad, which crosses it, have been used largely up to the present time for bringing to the market its fine supplies of timber. But it has an agricultural future before it. It is indicative of its favorable climate that both grapes and apples have been cultivated with marked success." The population of the county is 2,462, and one of its advantages is its nearness to the central markets, its county seat being distant about one hundred miles from St. Paul and Minneapolis, and much nearer Duluth. There are few counties in Minnesota in which there is more available land than in Aitkin. The state has over seventy-two thousand acres of school lands in the county; the government has 132,938 acres and the railroads 358,474 acres. All of this land can now be had at exceedingly low prices; good improved lands, owing to the partially undeveloped condition of the county, being held at ten dollars per acre.

Anoka.

Anoka is one of the best developed counties, being within a short distance of the two largest cities of the state. It has received their overflow, and their markets have developed its agricultural possibilities. This very fact has interfered somewhat with the growth of large crop interests, and has turned the attention of the farmers of Anoka county more particularly toward truck farming. There are some industries, however, which have made notable progress. The sugar-cane and sorghum interests are getting quite a start. There are a dozen sorghum mills in the county, and last year 104 acres were planted to cane, yielding 6,862 gallons, which retailed at fifty cents a gallon. This industry will be largely increased another year. In the same line of industry is the production of 1,295 pounds of white clover honey from forty-nine hives. Wool growing is now attracting attention, and there are two very large sheep farms in the county. Near Anoka there are forty farmers, probably, who are loaning money. One of them came to the county in 1870 with only what one team could haul, and is worth to-day at least forty thousand dollars. Butter from the creameries brings twenty-eight to thirty cents in the New York market. The Rum river furnishes a fine water power. Of the public school lands in Anoka county about two thousand acres remain unsold. The railroads have twelve thousand acres, in round numbers, for sale. These are lands to which

present development and future prospects give a high intrinsic value. Fine improved land, well located, is worth as high as sixty dollars an acre. The population of the county is 9,881. Its distance from Minneapolis is but twenty-eight miles, and its products command practically Minneapolis prices.

Becker.

The soil of Becker county is exceedingly fertile, and its topography is that of the park region in general, the eastern portion being well timbered. A portion of the county is occupied by the White Earth Indian reservation, and when the allotment of lands in severalty is made, all that remains of the thirty-six townships will be open for settlement. The county is well watered and drained; the Otter Tail river heads in the reservation, and the county is on the divide between the Red river and the Mississippi. The soil varies between sand, loam and clay. This county has been settled for twenty years, the population being about equally divided between Americans and Scandinavians. About half of the surface is taken. There are 36,648 acres of state school lands and forty six thousand of government lands. In addition to this the railroads have 120,923 acres for sale in the county. The population of the county is now 9,401. It is capable of supporting three times that number, and its productive soil offers large rewards to the settler.

Beltrami.

Beltrami is one of the three mighty divisions of Minnesota containing over three million acres of land surface each. It is as yet unorganized, and pretty much unexplored. A large portion of Beltrami county is occupied by an extensive Indian reservation around Red lake, in which there are great quantities of valuable farm lands as well as fine standing timber. The opening to settlement of a large area of this reservation by recent act of congress will probably turn immigration in this direction. As Beltrami county borders upon the counties of the Red River Valley district, its lands are unquestionably desirable for farming purposes when they shall become available. Its population by the last census was 321. There is plenty of land for everybody in Beltrami county. The state has 14,979 acres of school lands and the government 277,240 acres, exclusive of the reservation lands soon to become available. There are 3,083 acres in the county belonging to the railroads.

Benton.

Benton is one of the upper Mississippi counties. About five-sixths of its surface is flat, and the rest diversified with meadow and timber lands. The soil is sandy in the prairie districts and in the lumber districts is loam with a clay subsoil. A large amount of live stock is raised in the county, and there are many creameries. As yet it is largely undeveloped, less than one-fourth of its area being cultivated. In addition to its agricultural industries, it is noted for its fine granite. The Sauk Rapids granite is already famous outside of Minnesota as well as at home. The quarry a short distance from that city employs five hundred men. There is an inexhaustible supply of this gray and red granite, which is largely used in some of the handsomest buildings of Minnesota's cities. The population numbers 6,264, and the people are fairly prosperous. There are thirty-three schoolhouses in the county, and fine opportunities are offered to newcomers. Three thousand eight hundred acres of public school lands are yet to be disposed of, and a few acres of government lands. The railroads have thirty-seven thousand five hundred acres for sale. Land ranges in price from five dollars to fifty dollars per acre, according to location and improvements. The farms are mostly small, as farms go in the West, averaging say one hundred and sixty acres. Representative Hunck, speaking of the progress made by Benton county during the past two years, says the settlers are taking advantage of the fine haylands and natural meadows to go into the stock-raising business and dairying. Many elevators and grain warehouses have been erected since 1890, and the shipping and railroad facilities are unequaled. The county is settled by a mixed population, consisting of Germans, Poles, Irish and Americans.

Big Stone.

It is a prairie county, with numerous small lakes, and along its southwestern boundary is the great Big Stone lake, the source of the Minnesota river. About one-half of the area is still open for cultivation, and the settler will find good roads and good schools. The crops are oats, corn and wheat, and no crop failure has been known in the past ten years. Most of the people started with little or nothing, and are now in good circumstances. The population is partly American and partly Scandinavian. It numbers 5,722. There are forty-nine schoolhouses in the county. It

has excellent railroad facilities, and is 176 miles distant from St. Paul. The granite quarries at Ortonville are among the finest in the country. Land under cultivation can be bought at an average of ten dollars per acre, and unbroken land for correspondingly less. There are no school lands available, but there is some railroad land. All lands are rapidly increasing in value, and there are over one hundred miles of railroad in the county owned by competing lines, affording cheap freight rates and shipping facilities. In these rich prairie counties of the West are to be found some of the finest opportunities in Minnesota.

Blue Earth.

Blue Earth county is a prairie county, with some timber, and exceedingly well watered. Running streams and lakes are found at every turn, and there is an abundance of mixed timber. This is one of the richest and best-developed counties of southern Minnesota. Bordered by the Minnesota river and traversed by several systems of railway lines, it has all the advantages of older states. The crops are wheat and small grains, and the yield is fine. Blue Earth produces over one million bushels of wheat and over one hundred thousand bushels of flax. Five-sixths of the county is prairie, but its nearness to the Big Woods supplies it with timber for fuel and other purposes. The industries are well diversified; stock raising is becoming an important branch, and large numbers of fine horses are bred. Dairying is a leading pursuit. Flax is raised in large quantities. In addition to agriculture there are many other industries that flourish in the county. Good clay beds are abundant, and drain tile is manufactured. The cement works at Mankato, and the stone quarries at the same place, yield products that are well known all over the state. Blue Earth county is well settled, the population being 29,210. Its county seat is distant eighty-seven miles from St. Paul. There is not much land left untilled in Blue Earth county. The public school fund has about two hundred acres, and a railroad land company about one thousand five hundred acres. This is exceedingly valuable on account of the development and advantages of the country. The county has one hundred and forty-eight schoolhouses, and spends over one hundred thousand dollars annually for school purposes.

Brown.

Brown is a prairie county, along which runs the Minnesota river, while through it go the Big and Little Cottonwood. It is dotted with lakes and rivers and surrounded by heavy timber. Brown is a rich agricultural district, producing in abundance all the cereal grains, and being well suited for dairying and stock raising. It is one of the list of counties yielding over one million bushels of wheat annually. There is ample room for settlement. Cultivated lands run from fifteen dollars to twenty-five dollars per acre. In the northern part are some fine railroad lands. The railroads have only six hundred acres for sale in this county. In addition to its agricultural interests, coal has been found along the Big Cottonwood, and the clay at New Ulm is said to make some of the finest fire-brick and pottery in the state. There are also large stone quarries. Two-thirds of the population are Germans.

Carlton.

The agricultural interests of Carlton county have been subservient thus far to its lumber and mineral interests. The county, which lies just west of the head of Lake Superior, south of St. Louis, is heavily timbered, like all that portion of the country, with an underlying soil that will ultimately be used for farming purposes. Up to the present time lumbering has been the chief industry. The mining interests are now beginning to be developed in their turn. The county is said to be rich in iron ore, and copper and silver have been found, although it is not known whether they exist in quantities sufficient to make it profitable to mine. Carlton county has one resource which is rather unique, even in a state as naturally well supplied by the bounty of nature as Minnesota—it has slate quarries, which promise to equal in value any in the country. The St. Paul & Duluth road crosses this county in one direction and the Northern Pacific in another, and these roads, with the close proximity of Duluth, give it commercial advantages that ought to secure an early development. Although one of the large counties of the state, its population is now 5,272, of mixed nationalities, but mainly American. Good land can be bought for ten dollars an acre, and there is plenty of government land and a large amount owned by railroad companies. The state lands aggregate nearly thirty thousand acres, the government lands 26,160, and the railroad lands 133,926 acres.

Carver.

Carver is one of the oldest counties in the state, having been settled nearly thirty years ago, mainly by Germans, who took up government lands. Some of them sold part of their farms, and other estates have been divided among children, so that the average size of a farm to-day is about eighty acres. The county was originally heavily timbered, but most of the forests have been cut away, exposing for tillage a very rich soil. The lumber is now so valuable that it will pay the cost of clearing. The entire county is good farming land. All small grains are raised, and over seven hundred and fifty thousand bushels of wheat is produced annually. Stock raising is becoming important, special attention being given to the fattening of hogs for market. A crop failure is practically unknown. Brick making is an important industry in this county, Chaska brick being well and favorably known throughout the state. The hardwoods of this county are among the finest in the state, and its remaining timber is becoming very valuable for furniture manufacture. Land values vary according to improvements, a fair average being thirty dollars per acre. Population is 16,532. The county is distant about twenty-three miles from the Minneapolis market. There is little school land remaining in Carver county, and a railroad company has less than one hundred and fifty acres of its grant remaining.

Cass.

Cass county is an immense region, nearly two million acres of land surface in extent, of undeveloped land, north of the centre of the state, which has been known up to the present time only as a lumbering region. This is part of the great pine land country of Minnesota, and its agricultural interests have received scarcely any attention. It is a region of innumerable lakes; from Brainerd, which lies just across its southern boundary in Crow Wing county, to the sources of the Mississippi river in the extreme north. Among these lakes are some larger than any others in the state except Red lake and Mille Lacs. This is part of the territory of which it has already been said that, when the surface is cleared and the timber resources have ceased to give occupation and yield profit, it will be found that the soil makes excellent farming land. As there is still a vast amount of timber in this county, and some deposits of iron and

silver have been found to give an impetus to explorations in search of mineral deposits, it will probably be some time before Cass county is agriculturally developed. Its population at the present time is 1,247. The state has over fifteen thousand five hundred acres of school and internal improvement lands, and the government 219,540 acres. The railroad lands amount to 275,846 acres. These lands will yet be cut up into tracts for farming purposes.

Chippewa.

Chippewa is one of the counties constituting the upper basin of the Minnesota river, lying on its northern slope, near the western boundary of the state. Like the rest of that section, it is mostly prairie country, with a gently undulating surface, and well watered. In these counties the distinctive features of the park region begin to disappear, and the country approaches more nearly the standard of the prairie region of southwestern Minnesota. The soil is very fertile. Farmers are prospering by the pursuit of diversified industry. As in most of the central counties, there has been no reliance upon a single crop, and at the present time there is a large amount of stock raised. While a great portion of Chippewa county has already been appropriated to private ownership, there is still plenty of room for the settler. There are about eight thousand acres of state lands in the county, and the railroads have sixteen thousand to dispose of. These lands are sold at the average prices in this section, which would be thought ridiculously low in any Eastern community possessed of anything like equal advantages.

Chisago.

Chisago, lying along the St. Croix river, was originally a wooded county, but has mostly been cleared into farms. Its settlement dates back to an early day. It is well watered and contains many lakes, all growing in favor as summer resorts. While the grains common to agriculture everywhere are grown, potatoes have been found to be an especially valuable and profitable crop. It is said that the yield of potatoes in Chisago county exceeds that of any other county in the United States. The population is 10,359, and the farmers everywhere are prosperous. The form of the county being long and

narrow, and the main line of the St. Paul & Duluth road crossing it in the direction of its greatest extension, it is well supplied with transportation facilities. Good improved lands run as high as twenty-five dollars an acre in value in the southern part of the county, while wild land can be bought at from ten to fifteen dollars, and lower in the northwestern part. The state has 2,644 acres of school lands in the county, and there are 5,846 acres of railroad land available for settlement.

Clay.

Clay is distinctly an agricultural county. There is some timber fringing the streams in the eastern part, but all its interests lie in the tillage of the soil. The population contains about fifty per cent of Norwegians, the remainder being Americans, Germans and Irish. In addition to the raising of wheat and other small grains, flax culture has been introduced and has proved to be a profitable occupation. The yield of wheat is about one million bushels. The population is 11,517. In addition to agricultural interests, considerable manufacturing is carried on at the important city of Moorhead. There are about fifteen thousand acres of state lands remaining unsold in the county, one thousand seven hundred acres of land belonging to the railroads, and 17,280 acres of government land. The best quality of railroad lands have been placed upon the market lately, and can be had on resonable terms. The county seat is distant two hundred and fifty miles from St. Paul, and the people have choice of markets between St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth, freight rates being the same to all these points—sixteen cents per hundred. Excellent improved land can be bought at fifteen dollars per acre.

Cook and Lake.

That portion of the State of Minnesota which lies north and east of Duluth, along the north shore of Lake Superior, might almost be termed with propriety an undiscovered country. Only a small portion of the surface of the two counties grouped in this description has been surveyed or even thoroughly explored. It lies between Lake Superior and the chain of lakes from which the Rainy Lake river issues, and is covered with timber and rich in minerals. The

timber is both hard and soft, and the small amount of land used for farming purposes is said to be good. The great mineral lead of which the Vermillion and Mesabi ranges are a part runs across the northern part of Lake county, and there is no reason to doubt that, when it shall be worked, it will produce deposits equal to those of St. Louis county. Not only iron, but copper and silver are found. While it is probable that agricultural products will always take an inferior place as compared with mineral production, still much good land will be occupied in these counties when they are supplied with the transportation facilities that are now almost entirely lacking. Lake county has a population of 1,299, while only ninety-eight people are credited to Cook county by the census of 1890. The state has only a small quantity of lands in these counties, but the government lands in Cook county amount to 572,596 acres, and in Lake county to 941,820 acres. The railroad companies have 8,938 acres in Cook and twenty-four thousand acres in Lake.

Cottonwood.

Cottonwood is called the "Blue Grass County" of western Minnesota. Its surface is a highland, smoothly undulating, with occasional ridges and gentle swells. It is watered by the Des Moines river, contains numerous small lakes, and about one per cent of its surface is wooded. The crops consist of wheat, oats, barley and indeed whatever is produced anywhere in the state. Corn, however, is one of the most successful crops. This county is in the great corn-producing section of southwestern Minnesota. Flax yields abundantly in this county, running from ten to eighteen bushels per acre, which makes it a most remunerative crop. The price of farm lands ranges from six dollars to fifteen dollars per acre, and considering the advantages of location, the admirable climate and the fine quality of the soil, this is exceedingly low. The population of the county is 7,412, and the people are prosperous. There still remain something over three thousand acres of school lands to be disposed of.

Crow Wing.

The county of Crow Wing is partly level and partly rolling. The level land is well timbered with pine and other useful lumber, while the rolling land is prairie land suitable for farming. The principal industries of the county are farming and lumbering. The

county is well watered, the Mississippi river flowing across it, while there are many beautiful lakes well stocked with excellent fish. The magnificent water power of the Mississippi river is being rapidly developed and is now utilized by many lumber mills and workshops. Land from which the timber has been removed can be purchased at reasonable prices. The industries that have centered at Brainerd have given an impetus to the development of this county. Few people are aware, until they look at the map, that this county, which is thought of as one of the extreme north, is almost exactly in the centre of Minnesota. There are over twenty thousand acres of public school lands in Crow Wing county, and 17,360 acres of government lands. The railroads have 101,365 acres for sale. Land with stumps on can be bought for one dollar and fifty cents an acre, and when cleared it is worth many times as much. Wherever clearings have been made and soil cultivated, it has been shown that Crow Wing is well adapted to all kinds of agricultural pursuits.

Dakota.

Dakota is one of the best developed counties in the state; lying south of Ramsey and Washington counties, along the Mississippi river, and directly in the path of the great trunk lines of railroad running to St. Paul and Minneapolis. Its surface is varied, with decided extremes between the prairie of the western portion and the bluffs along the river banks. The timbered portion is excellently watered, but the prairie district less so. The greater portion of this county has already been appropriated and put under cultivation, but lands can always be had from those who bought them up at an earlier day. The northern part of the county is employed largely for market gardening for the cities. Owing to the proximity of this market, the dairy interest has also proved very profitable. In the southern part the farmers raise small grains and stock, and there are some large farms where fine horses are produced. The people of the county are comfortably prosperous. Improved farm land varies in price from forty dollars to seventy-five dollars per acre, according to its distance from the centres. The population is 20,242. The county seat is distant but twenty miles from St. Paul, and has practically the same freight rates. Less than five hundred acres of school land and no government land remain in this county, but the railroads still have some lands for sale. There are good limestone

quarries at Mendota. Representative Staples adds: Dakota county has achieved a reputation for raising fine horses for speed and draught. It also excels any county in the state for dairying and the milk supply of St. Paul is very largely drawn from Dakota county. There has been a tendency among the farmers to abandon wheat raising and take up stock and dairy farming, with the cultivation of oats, fodder and ensilage.

Dodge.

The surface of Dodge county is but little diversified, being mostly undulating prairie, timbered along the courses of the streams. The soil has the fertility of eastern Minnesota in general, but the experience of the people has taught them to engage largely in stock raising as a lucrative occupation. Flax culture has also been introduced, and the product of the county runs over one hundred thousand bushels per annum. Improved lands are worth, on an average, from twenty dollars to thirty dollars per acre. There are less than seven hundred acres of school lands left in the county, and railroad lands have now passed into the hands of private owners, from whom they can be obtained when desired. The county seat is distant but seventy-five miles from St. Paul, to which point the freight rate is twelve cents per hundred on wheat. With the excellent market for stock, the people, the majority of whom are American born, have succeeded well. The population is 10,864.

Douglas.

The northern part of Douglas, one of the splendid counties of the park region, is woodland, and the southern part is immediately available for farming purposes. The soil is excellent, and diversified farming, which is everywhere the rule in this section, is practiced. The farmers are generally successful. There is a great deal of stock raising, draught horses being made a specialty. Interest in stock growing and dairying is increasing, and more creameries are needed. The wheat crop of Douglas county is over one million bushels, to say nothing of its other large agricultural interests. The population is 14,606, the majority of the people being of Scandinavian origin. The conditions in Douglas county are excellent for immigration, and the people desire to see vacant lands under cultivation. About

a fourth of the county is tilled. Good farm lands sell at fifteen dollars per acre, and wild land at seven dollars and below. The state has two thousand six hundred acres of school and internal improvement lands, and there are fifteen thousand acres belonging to the railroad companies available to immigrants.

Faribault.

Faribault is a prairie county of the southern tier, lying almost exactly in the centre of the state, measured from east to west. It has a black soil, two feet and upward in depth, and contains some farms as fine as any in the state. The county is well watered naturally, and in addition to this there are artesian wells of large flowage, which vary from sixty to two hundred feet in depth. Diversified farming is the rule, and the yield of wheat and of oats has now exceeded one million five hundred thousand bushels annually. Flax has lately become an important and valuable crop. The farmers of Faribault county are prosperous almost without exception. They have their choice between the St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Chicago markets, and find ready sale for their products at profitable prices. The county is quite thickly settled, having a population of 16,708, in which the German element predominate. The schools are excellent, and there are 116 of them in the county. Improved farms are worth from twenty-five dollars an acre upward, and unimproved land is sold as high as twenty dollars an acre. There are no lands to speak of for sale in Faribault county outside of those owned by individuals. There is a great deal of tree planting done, and last year over five thousand dollars was received from the state in this way. During the past two years there has been a large improvement in the houses and barns throughout the county, and since the census was taken, in 1890, the population has increased between two and three thousand.

Fillmore.

Fillmore is one of the great counties that border the northern boundary of Iowa, in southeastern Minnesota. The surface is rolling, diversified by occasional deep valleys, and is partly prairie and partly timbered. The former comprises about five-sixths of its sur-

face, it is well watered, and the soil is the familiar fertile black loam. This is one of the old-settled counties which yields a great amount of agricultural products. Of late years industry has been more diversified, and the county is rapidly becoming distinguished for its stock raising. There is still room for more people, especially in the western part. About five hundred acres of public school lands are to be had. Prices of improved lands of first quality range from twenty dollars to thirty dollars per acre. The people are largely Norwegian, and are industrious and thrifty. The population of the county is 26,338. It has 179 schoolhouses, and spends one hundred thousand dollars annually for education.

Freeborn.

Freeborn is a rolling prairie, interspersed with lakes and surrounded by hardwood timber. The farmers, who were formerly largely devoted to wheat culture, are now resorting to diversified farming, and are especially interested in the raising of live stock. The county has more creameries than any other in the state. It is well watered by small streams, and has the fertility of soil and natural productiveness common to the counties of the southern tier. Freeborn county is exceedingly well supplied with railroad communications, numerous lines radiating from the important centre, Albert Lea. This affords to its inhabitants reasonable freight rates and a choice of markets. About fifty per cent of Freeborn county is under cultivation; still it supports now a population of 17,962. Improved lands are to be had at from twenty dollars to thirty dollars per acre. The school and university lands have all been sold out there; there is a little railroad land yet to be had at ten dollars per acre. The twenty-two creameries and cheese factories in the county are gold mines to the owners. Cattle raising, especially milch cows, is increasing, and twenty-five thousand dollars butter money is distributed every month.

Goodhue.

Goodhue county lies along the Mississippi river, and is cut by the Cannon and the Zumbro; along their banks it is timbered, but elsewhere it is prairie. Crops are mostly small grains, and have been excellent always. Its crops of corn and oats exceed one mill-

ion bushels annually. The sugar beet and sugar cane are also cultivated freely. The county was settled back in the fifties, and the majority of its people are Scandinavians. Farm lands have a wide range of value, the average being from twenty-five dollars to forty dollars, with prices lower in the southwest and higher near the cities and railway lines. Formerly the principal crop was wheat, but other grains are raised now, and much attention is given to stock growing. With the exception of a few acres of school lands, the only land to be had in Goodhue county is from private parties. The county seat is distant but forty miles from St. Paul. It enjoys, therefore, almost the same market. There are large potteries at Red Wing, and the clay used for the purpose is said to be some of the best in the country. The population is 28,806.

Grant.

Grant is a beautiful park region county, south of Otter Tail, and adjoining the basin of the headwaters of the Minnesota river and the Red River of the North. It has all the features of the park region, its surface being mostly rolling, with timber in small groves beside its numerous lakes, and the land is adapted to all farming purposes. Grant is slightly less developed than some of the other counties of this section, owing to the fact that it lies between two of the main lines of the Great Northern system, and needs to be opened up by branch lines to bring its entire area into ready and convenient communication with the markets. Wheat has been the staple crop, but in common with other counties of the park region, diversified farming is now more in favor, and stock raising of all kinds is on the increase. The population of 6,875 is largely of foreign birth. There are fifty-one schoolhouses of an excellent grade in the county, and fine roads everywhere. The state has thirty-five thousand acres of school and internal improvement lands in Grant county, and the railroad companies twenty-five thousand acres of land exceedingly valuable for farmers.

Hennepin.

Hennepin county contains the largest city, and the largest though not the densest population, in Minnesota. The county would be eminent agriculturally even if it did not contain the great

city of Minneapolis. It has by nature the features that make the park region so beautiful to the eye. Its general scenery, its beautiful rolling surface, its myriad lakes unexcelled in loveliness by any in the state, would warrant enthusiasm if the county were situated on the uttermost confines of the frontier; as it is, Hennepin county, being so considerable in size and extending so far beyond the city limits and the direct reach of city influence, contains a large area devoted strictly to farming purposes. The soil is extremely fertile, with a sufficient growth of timber for fuel and building purposes, and the market offered by two great cities, within a few hours' drive, is a guarantee of prosperity to the farmer. For those who can afford to purchase good land at good figures, and who desire to engage in scientific farming under the conditions that prevail in the neighborhood of a metropolis, land in Hennepin county would have special attraction and value. The importance of Minneapolis as a milling centre is recognized all over the world, and the strong local market for grain which this has built up is of inestimable value to the farmers of the Northwest. Both here and in Ramsey county all lands were appropriated many years ago. The population of Hennepin county is 185,249.

Houston.

Houston county occupies the southeastern corner of the state, abutting on the Mississippi river and Iowa state line. It is uneven in surface, but is one-half excellent farming land. The valleys are especially fertile and are well wooded and watered. Farmers are generally prosperous. This condition has been particularly marked since they gave up exclusive devotion to wheat growing, and turned their attention more to live stock. Some flax is grown. More than one million bushels of oats and corn each are produced annually, the corn crop being very heavy and on the increase. On the hillsides fine hard timber may be found. Improved lands average about thirty-five dollars to forty dollars per acre, and unimproved can be had at from five dollars to fifteen dollars. About two thousand five hundred acres of school lands remain to be disposed of in this county. There are several good flouring mills in the county, and a mill to manufacture hoop-poles from the heavy elm growing in the county. The county seat is one hundred and fifty miles distant from St. Paul. The population is 14,653.

Hubbard.

Hubbard is one of the most recently organized counties of the state, and is making very rapid progress. The northern part is all good pine timber, and the lumber industry, which was the original attraction, is still flourishing. A great deal of the remainder is covered with timber, although there are large tracts of prairie intervening. The whole of this county, which is comparatively unknown outside of the state, and not over one-eighth of whose area, it is estimated, is under cultivation, is admirably fitted for agricultural pursuits. The county has forty lakes or more, is well watered, and, with the increase of railroad facilities already in contemplation or actually under way, will develop finely. The population at present is 1,912. Although spoken of as if it were on the frontier, the county seat of Hubbard county is distant but 165 miles from St. Paul. Farm lands can be had at ten dollars per acre, and there is an immense amount of unimproved land in the county which may be purchased very cheap. Of the public school lands, there are 16,685 acres; the government still has 61,880 acres which may be taken under the homestead act, and the railroad grants include 38,081 acres of land, all adapted to successful agriculture.

Isanti.

Isanti county, which lies directly north of Anoka, partakes of the same general characteristics. This whole Mille Lacs region, indeed, is very uniform. Primarily heavy timber land, and only a small part of it brought under cultivation, a great portion of the original forests remain. Wherever they have been cleared away an excellent and fertile soil has been disclosed. There are fine farms in Isanti county. The chief farm product at the present time is potatoes, of which immense crops to the acre are raised. It has been shown by experiment that the county is well adapted for raising the sugar beet. About seventy-five per cent of the population are Swedes, the remainder being of mixed nationality. This is a county where new settlers are much desired, and where the opportunities for them are fine. Improved land brings as high as twenty-five dollars an acre, while unimproved land can be bought from ten dollars downward. The population is 7,607. As the county seat is distant but fifty miles from Minneapolis, the whole of this county will have a good market

in the large cities as soon as it secures ample railway accommodations. There are about ten thousand acres of school lands to be had, and a few government lands. The railroad systems have 22,504 acres for sale in this county. Owing to their location, these lands will become, after the country has been fully developed, among the most valuable in the state.

Itasca.

Itasca is one of the mammoth counties that lie along the northern frontier of Minnesota, unorganized until 1891, and with a surface only partially surveyed. Here is a single division of Minnesota capable of supporting an enormous population, which is inhabited, according to the last census, by 743 people. It is more heavily timbered with pine than some of the adjacent districts, although large quantities of hardwood timber are also found. Comparatively little is known of the immense area of this county, which is drained by the large streams that flow northward into the Rainy Lake river. In the southern portion is an Indian reservation about Lake Winnibigoshish, and this region has become somewhat famous through the operations of the government, which has constructed here one of the large reservoirs for storing water to replenish the lower Mississippi during the dry season. Itasca county is now sought mainly for its timber, but it will soon be resorted to for permanent homes. Roads and schoolhouses are being built rapidly, and the tide of immigration may be expected to set in in that direction. Over one million acres in this county are still unsurveyed. The government has title to 1,811,480 acres, and the railroads own twenty-nine thousand acres, which are for sale. In addition to its other resources, Itasca, like its neighbor, St. Louis, is rich in minerals. The most desirable lands can be had at the lowest prices.

Jackson.

Jackson is almost exclusively a prairie county, having the familiar characteristics of the fertile southwestern Minnesota lands. Wheat, corn and other grains are raised in large quantities, and corn is always a staple crop. Stock raising has obtained a very strong hold in this county. Its magnificent grazing lands afford fine pasturage,

and it is said locally that a flock of sheep means more to the farmer than a bank account. Comparatively little of its surface is under cultivation, and there is room for a large population. Good improved land can be bought as low as twelve dollars per acre. There are less than one thousand acres of school lands unsold, but the railroad companies have 8,888 acres in the market. The county is well served by several lines of railroad, and has eighty-three schoolhouses. The people, who number 8,924, enjoy prosperity.

Kanabec.

Kanabec is one of the counties which occupy the timber district lying between the St. Croix and the Mississippi rivers. Although distinctively a forest region, it has a rich soil, with a large percentage of the elements that give fertility, a pleasantly diversified surface, is exceedingly well watered, and has a large number of small lakes, like all the counties of this section. By reason of its splendid forest resources, lumbering has been the principal occupation up to the present time, and only about one-twentieth of the soil has been brought under cultivation. Agricultural progress will be slow necessarily, until the surface has been cleared, but it will ultimately succeed and displace the traffic in lumber. The county is traversed by a railroad line, and although the population is only twenty-two hundred, there are good schools and all the accessories of life common in older communities. There are good natural meadows for stock raising, and this industry will doubtless become a favorite. The population is mixed, with Scandinavians predominating. As the county seat is distant but seventy-five miles from St. Paul and Minneapolis, this county is assured of a rapid future development. There is a very large amount of land to be had in this county, and prices are low. The state has a little less than twenty thousand acres in Kanabec county, and the government a little over ten thousand. The railroads have 106,205 acres ready to be occupied, and during the past two years there has been a large influx of settlers of a very desirable class.

Kandiyohi.

The surface is a well diversified rolling prairie, with hundreds of lakes, and fine timber of all kinds. The principal crop is wheat; but oats, barley, flax and potatoes are raised, with garden vege-

tables, in large quantities, for the city markets. Farmers are turning their attention to stock raising and high-grade cattle. Holsteins, Jerseys and Shorthorns are common. The sugar beet can be raised to advantage. Improved lands range in value from ten dollars to forty dollars per acre, according to location. Unimproved lands can be had for eight dollars. There are about two thousand eight hundred acres of state lands in Kandiyohi county, and a small quantity of government land. The railroad has forty thousand acres for sale along its main line from St. Paul to Breckenridge. The county seat is only one hundred miles distant from the central market, and good prices are the rule. Eighty-two cents per bushel for wheat, on an average yield of fourteen bushels, and eighty-nine cents for flax, on a yield of thirteen bushels, ought to pay.

Kittson.

Kittson county is mostly a level prairie, except where there are borders of timber along the courses of the streams. In the eastern part there is brush and timber sufficient for fuel and building purposes. The county is drained by the Red river and smaller watercourses running into it, it being a part of this famous valley. The county has a total area of 1,385,439 acres, a large portion of which is still unoccupied; the population, by the census of 1890, being 5,387. Of these unsettled lands, 14,604 are the property of the state. There are 898,560 acres of government lands, and one hundred and seventy thousand acres of fine farming land belonging to the railroads. A large portion of the lands from seven to ten miles back from the railroad track are unsettled. Some of the bonanza farms of the Red River Valley are in this county, such as the Ryans', with thirty-five thousand acres, and Mr. J. J. Hill's forty-thousand-acre farm. The county seat is distant 371 miles from St. Paul, and the freight rate is nineteen cents per hundred to St. Paul or Duluth. The lands in this county are all low-priced, considering the immensely productive character of the soil. The settler can take his choice between buying land near the railroad, which has been broken and backset, and going farther away and purchasing lands at a still lower price, or entering them under the homestead act.

Lac qui Parle.

Lac qui Parle county occupies the triangle between the upper Minnesota river and the boundary of South Dakota. It is a fine rolling prairie, stretching away from the river valley westward. The surface is mostly prairie land, but there is timber along the Lac qui Parle river and other streams. The principal crop is wheat, over one million bushels being produced annually. The average crop is about fourteen bushels to the acre. The county has been found to be admirably adapted to stock raising. The majority of the population is foreign born, divided between Scandinavians and Germans. A comparatively small portion of its surface is tilled, and there are fine inducements for new settlers and for high-class farming. Improved farm lands can be bought from fifteen dollars to twenty-five dollars per acre, and other lands at from ten dollars to twenty dollars. About two thousand acres of school lands are left in the county, and the railroad companies have a large quantity for sale. Educational interests are well looked after, there being eighty-six schoolhouses in the county. A study of the advantages of Lac qui Parle county can be recommended to the settler.

Le Sueur.

Along the Minnesota river the surface is hilly and well timbered, and back from the river it is a level prairie, interspersed with occasional forests. The soil is a black loam, and the county is as fertile as any in the state. The farms of the county average about one hundred and twenty acres, and farmers are very prosperous, there having been no crop failures since the county was organized. Wheat and the small grains are leading crops, but the raising of hogs and other live stock is becoming a local specialty. Attention is given also to the raising of blooded horses. About seventy-five per cent of the population is foreign born. The lands of Le Sueur county are mostly of private ownership, but about four hundred acres are for sale by a railroad company. There is an average yield of nineteen bushels of wheat, thirty-five bushels of corn and fifteen bushels of flax per acre. At Kasota and other places in the county there are quarries of excellent building stone. The county seat is distant about seventy-five miles from St. Paul.

Lincoln.

Lincoln is a prairie county *par excellence,* with fringes of timber along its streams and around its lakes, some of which are unusually beautiful. It lies along the western boundary of the state, and is well supplied with railroad accommodations. Wheat has been its staple crop, with flax second in order of importance. This is not primarily a stock-raising county, but the industry has been introduced and is making great progress. The fertility of the soil and its suitableness for every form of agricultural industry promises a great future for Lincoln county. It has a population of 5,691, occupying hardly more than a third of its total area. Land can be had in Lincoln county at from nine dollars an acre upward, according to improvements. The remaining state lands amount to over six thousand acres. The railroad lands of the county are for sale and are very valuable.

Lyon.

Lyon is a prairie county, and has more good land than any other in the state. It is in the fertile southwestern Minnesota country, and has ample railroad facilities. There are not many running streams, but wells are plentiful and supplied with fine water. The products are mostly the cereal grains for marketing, and stock farming has taken a strong hold of the people. There have never been any bonanza crops, but the yield is uniformly good, without a year of failure. There are seventy-seven schoolhouses in the county. The settlers are largely Americans, with a sprinkling of other nationalities. Improved land runs from eight dollars to twenty dollars per acre. Only about one-sixth of the surface is under cultivation. The state has over four thousand five hundred acres of unsold lands in Lyon county, and the railway company has large holdings.

McLeod.

A portion of McLeod county lies within the belt known as the Big Woods, and its surface is about half prairie and half timber. The soil is a fine loam with clay subsoil. The county has been long settled and a great part of it is under cultivation. The majority of the people are Germans and are in a prosperous condition. The crops

are mostly of the small grains, but there is plenty of meadow land and a fine opening for stock raising. The population of McLeod county is 17,026. Its wheat product is over one million bushels. Improved farm lands run from fifteen to forty dollars an acre. The county seat is but fifty-one miles distant from Minneapolis. The state has two hundred and eighty acres of school lands remaining, and there are one hundred and fifty acres for sale by a railway land company. All the towns in McLeod county possess all the elevators they need, and shipping facilities are ample. The butter and cheese industry is growing, and several successful factories are owned and conducted by the farmers themselves.

Marshall.

Marshall county, like the rest of the Red River Valley, is a prairie country, except a small part of the eastern portion, which adjoins the wooded district between Red lake and Lake of the Woods. The county is well watered, and is covered with fine farms in a high state of development. The farmers, who have raised the splendid crops of wheat common to this section for many years past, are fairly prosperous. This is one of the great wheat growing counties, its annual yield being over one million bushels. Small grains are raised, but wheat pays best, and probably will continue to be the staple crop as long as "No. 1 hard" retains its place in the market. The population of 9,130 is about forty per cent Scandinavian, twenty per cent French and forty per cent American. Of the land surface of over one million acres included in this county, about one hundred thousand acres are under cultivation. It would be difficult to find conditions more inviting to the immigrant, or opportunities more desirable for those who are energetic. Although Marshall county lies in the extreme northwest of the state, its county seat being three hundred and thirty miles from St. Paul, it has a direct outlet for its wheat crop through Duluth. The freight rate to that point is only about ten cents per bushel. As the county produces from eighteen to thirty-five bushels to the acre, wheat farming must pay well. Wild land can be had at from five dollars to ten dollars per acre, and good improved land at from ten dollars to twenty dollars. There is plenty of room for the settler, as the state has 28,953 acres of school lands, the government still retains 161,280, and the railroads have one hundred and fifty thousand acres for sale in the county.

Martin.

Martin county, which is one of the southern tier of Minnesota, would not be out of place in the park region. Nature has made it one of the most beautiful counties in the state. With the fertility common to all counties of this section, it is a fine prairie land, diversified with lakes and streams. There are sixty-six meandered lakes in this county alone, all of them bordered by groves of handsome timber. Farming is diversified. Here the change from the late system of exclusive wheat farming is almost complete. Stock and dairy products are important sources of income. Flax is raised with great profit. Martin county produced five hundred thousand bushels of flax in 1890, and farmers sold it at $1.25 and $1.35 per bushel. Last year many farmers sold from two thousand dollars to three thousand dollars worth of grain. All the grains flourish. Wild land bought at ten dollars per acre has produced from twelve to fifteen bushels of flax the first year. There are about five hundred acres of state school lands in Martin county, and a railway land company has 1,676 acres to be disposed of.

Meeker.

Meeker is one of the older counties of the state, having been settled as early as 1856. It lies between Wright and Kandiyohi counties, just below the division known as the park region, and has the same general natural features. About half its surface is prairie of great fertility, and lakes and streams are abundant. The population is 15,456, only a fraction of what its surface would support. All the grains are grown, and dairying and stock interests flourish. The county has eighty-four schoolhouses. Improved lands of the best quality average about twenty dollars an acre in value. Wild lands, of course, can be had at correspondingly lower figures. A little over five hundred acres of state school lands remain, and the railway company has twenty-five thousand acres in the market.

Mille Lacs.

Mille Lacs is a beautiful county, level in the southern part and hilly or rolling toward the north. Most of it was originally heavy timber, like the rest of this region, the forests of the northern part being mixed with oak and pine. Lumbering has been a leading industry up to the present time. The only reason why agriculture has not made greater progress is the need of more railroad extensions,

although a line of the Great Northern crosses the county from east to west. Where land has been cleared and improved it is worth as high as thirty dollars an acre. The crops have been confined, so far, principally to wheat and corn, the former being the mainstay. Mille Lacs is near to the large cities, its county seat lying within fifty miles from St. Paul, and only a little farther from Duluth. As yet only about one-nineteenth of the surface is under cultivation. The population is 2,845. With good prices for all products and a yield as heavy as in any of the more thickly settled portions of the state, the opportunities for settlers in Mille Lacs county are of the best. The school lands unsold amount to 16,843 acres, and the government lands to 9,358. The railroads have 87,610 acres for sale. Here are homes for thousands of families, with a reasonable assurance of success, as may be seen by the progress made during the past two years. The yield of potatoes is the largest of any county in the state, and the quality is not excelled in the United States. The dairy business is on the increase and many creameries have been established since 1890. The butter and cheese so produced is of a high grade and brings the best prices paid in the market.

Morrison.

Morrison county lies on both sides of the Mississippi river just south of Crow Wing and Cass. With the exception of a small area of its western portion, which is rough, the surface is generally level and the lands are good. East of the Mississippi it partakes of the quality of the central eastern counties of the state. A large part of it is heavily timbered with both pine and deciduous woods. All the land is fertile, and the county is so large that there is a desire for immigration. It is already well developed in almost every respect. Although named as one of the frontier counties, its schools are said to be excellent. Of its mixed population, which numbers 13,235, a majority are Americans. Good lands can be had in most parts of the county, in almost any quantities, at from five to ten dollars an acre for unimproved lands, and improved lands are selling at moderate figures on five and ten years' time. The state has nearly thirty-eight thousand acres of school and internal improvement lands in Morrison county, and the government 13,440. There are 64,540 acres of land belonging to the railroads. With such a large amount of land as this still unoccupied, Morrison county should be an objective point of immigration for some years to come.

Mower.

Mower is a high prairie county, with a gentle undulating surface. It is particularly well furnished with railroad connections, its principal city, Austin, being an important centre and a flourishing local market for farm products. The surface is prairie, sparsely timbered, and watered by the Cedar river and plenty of small streams. The crops are the usual small grains, which are grown in profusion. The yield of oats is over one million bushels annually and of flax over one hundred thousand bushels. The clay deposits of this county are of unusually fine quality, and pressed bricks are now made which will bear comparison with any in the country. The county has been settled for more than a generation, has a population of 18,019 and one hundred and twenty-five schoolhouses. Mower county crops always average well and farmers are prosperous. Austin is distant but one hundred miles from St. Paul. Improved farm lands can be had at twenty dollars an acre. There is no state or railroad land offered, but plenty can be had from private individuals and companies who hold it for sale. The principal industries are stock raising and dairying, and the farmers are universally prosperous and contented.

Murray.

Murray is one of the favored counties of southwestern Minnesota. It is generally prairie, with plenty of fine lakes, and is traversed by the Des Moines river in the southwestern portion. The soil is exceedingly fertile, and farmers generally are prosperous. While all the grains are raised, flax has come to be a leading product, owing to the large profits from its culture. Many of the farmers now here brought with them to the county nothing but good health and energy, and are fairly wealthy to-day. Roads and schools are excellent, and of the latter the county has seventy-seven. Not over a fifth of its surface is under cultivation. It is probable that the beet-sugar industry will be prosecuted extensively in this county. Good improved land is selling at from seven dollars to ten dollars per acre, and a fine opportunity is open to settlers in search of congenial climate and a comfortable home. There are four thousand acres of state school lands, and a railway land company has one thousand five hundred acres to be sold.

Nicollet.

Nicollet county occupies the angle formed by the sharp turn in the Minnesota river, where it changes from a southeasterly to almost a northerly course. Though separated from them by this stream, it belongs in its natural characteristics with the rich counties of Blue Earth and Brown counties, just south. The surface is nearly uniformly level away from the river valleys, and all of it is valuable land. There is timber along the streams, and the county is filled with good farms. The crops are wheat and other grains, the wheat product of Nicollet being over one million bushels annually. Farmers have learned of late years the wisdom of diversifying their industry, and much stock is now raised. The population of the county is 13,382, about half of it American born, and the rest made up of all nationalities. There are sixty-two schoolhouses in the county. Improved lands of fine quality can be had at an average price of twenty dollars per acre. The county seat is seventy-five miles distant from St. Paul, with a freight rate of eleven cents per hundred. Wild land can be obtained cheap, and is open to emigrants with slender resources. The state has 385 acres of school lands, and there is a small quantity owned and for sale by a railway land company.

Nobles.

Nobles is a prairie county, on the southern boundary of Minnesota, with an extremely rich soil, and well watered by numerous streams. This is part of that happy region of southwestern Minnesota in which all products of the soil seem to flourish equally well, and the farmer can choose, as he pleases, what line of agricultural industry he will pursue. All this portion of the state has been settled for a long time, and possesses the advantages of ample railroad facilities, good roads, fine schools and numerous villages. Nobles is a splendid farming county, and although wheat is still its main crop, it produces over one hundred thousand bushels of flax annually, and diversified farming is increasing. The excellent quality of the soil and the desirability of location here caused all government lands to be taken up some time ago. Still only about one-fourth of the surface is under tillage. Unimproved land can be bought at from ten dollars to fifteen dollars per acre. Most of the land, except that in the hands of private companies or speculators, is the five thousand acres now owned by a railway land company.

Norman.

Norman county is partly prairie and partly timbered. Wheat is the principal crop, and the yield has been excellent, with the exception of two or three years, ever since its settlement in 1871. Stock raising is carried on largely in the central part. The county is about two-thirds settled, and offers fine opportunities to newcomers. The population is 10,618. There are here over nineteen thousand acres of state lands, and 14,152 acres of excellent farm lands, the property of the railroad. Railroad and school lands may be had at from five dollars and fifty cents to twenty-five dollars an acre, according to quality and location, while improved lands are worth from fifteen to twenty-eight dollars. There are seventy-six schoolhouses in the county, and it is one of those that produced over one million two hundred and fifty thousand bushels of wheat in 1891. With the average large yield that characterizes this section, there is money in farming on these lands. During the past two years farmers have devoted much attention to the dairy business, and many creameries have been established, all of which do a profitable business.

Olmsted.

Olmsted is among the banner counties of the southern part of the state, and is devoted entirely to farming industries, the land being exceedingly fertile. Wheat and small grains have been leading crops, but flax culture has been introduced with such success that this product will be a favorite in the future. The whole county is well developed, although only a minor portion of its surface is cultivated. Roads are excellent, and educational interests are well looked after, there being 142 schoolhouses in the county. Settlers here will find the conditions common in long-established communities. It is a representative county of the garden district of the state, and its fair, held annually at Rochester, almost rivals the exhibits of the State Agricultural Society. Over one-half of the population, numbering 19.436, is American born. Farms under cultivation can be bought from twenty-five dollars an acre upward. The prices for products prevailing in Olmsted county are generally determined by the Chicago market. The county has also acquired a great reputation for the raising of fine horses. The state, government and railroad lands have become private property.

Otter Tail.

Otter Tail is the very centre and type of the park region. It has a rolling and diversified surface; and this, covered with the products which its wonderfully fertile soil produces, is a pleasing sight to the eye. Two-thirds of the area is timbered. The Leaf Hills extend through the county. It is the banner county of the state for lakes, the number within its borders being variously estimated at from four hundred and thirty to 1,029. Crops consist of the small grains and a large amount of corn and potatoes. The opportunities for settlers in the shape of unimproved lands are very great. The state has 28,036 acres of school lands and 7,566 acres of internal improvement lands in this county; while there are 2,980 acres of government lands, and 108,596 acres are the property of the railroads. These school and railroad lands can be had at from five dollars an acre up, and many of them are sufficiently well timbered to lighten materially the cost of cultivation. Improved lands can be bought at low prices in occasionally unfavorable seasons. The population of Otter Tail county is 34,232. The wheat crop alone of 1892 was about two million bushels, which represents an enormous productive capacity. The county has 232 schoolhouses, and its comparative density of settlement, combined with the large area of lands still available, make it one of the most desirable homes for settlers.

Pine.

Pine county is one of the least known in the state, although it is a very large one and lies on the direct line of communication between St. Paul and the head of navigation on Lake Superior. It is traversed throughout by the main line of the St. Paul & Duluth Railroad. Its comparatively undeveloped state is due to the feature which it shares in common with the other counties of this region, that is, the fact that it is heavily timbered and that lumbering has been the main industry up to the present time. Being penetrated through the whole southern portion by branches of the St. Croix river, it is afforded fine facilities for getting logs to market, and has heretofore been largely given over to lumbermen. Its agricultural resources and capabilities have been but little explored, but there are fine farming lands in the southern part, where developments have been made, and there is reason to believe that the county will attain prominence in the agricultural development of the future. The popu-

lation at the present time numbers about six thousand. Hardly an appreciable fraction of the surface of Pine has been brought under cultivation. A very large amount of land is yet to be disposed of, and the price of wild land ranges from three dollars an acre or below upward. The state has 45,956 acres of school lands in Pine county, and the government lands amount to 52,537 acres. The railroad lands include the immense area of 363,845 acres. The county is fast being settled.

Pipestone.

Pipestone is a prairie county, on the western frontier, in southwestern Minnesota. It is fertile and well watered. Diversified farming is followed, with flax culture and stock raising on the increase. In 1892 one million pounds of beef were produced. Sixty per cent of the population are American born. A farmer in the town of Eden, in this county, writes that he settled there with practically nothing, and now owns three hundred and twenty acres of land, free of all incumbrance. His farm is well stocked with cattle and horses, and last year he raised a crop worth three thousand five hundred dollars. The quarries of Pipestone county have long been famous. The stone when first cut is soft, but hardens after exposure. It has become known everywhere through its use by the Indians for making pipes. There are also quarries of fine granite, one of them employing about ninety men. The population of the county is 5,132, and it has fifty-five schoolhouses. About one-third of its surface is cultivated. Improved lands average about fifteen dollars an acre, and unimproved can be purchased at eight dollars and upward. There are three thousand acres of state school lands.

Polk.

Polk is a prairie county, well timbered along the streams. It is none too well watered naturally, but flowing wells are easily obtained by boring. The cereal grains constitute the principal crops. In the eastern part of the county Norwegians are settled, in the central part the French predominate, while the inhabitants of the western portion are partly American. While seven-eighths of the county is owned, only a little over one-third is under cultivation. There are

fine clay beds near Crookston and East Grand Forks, producing a quality of brick that rivals the Milwaukee article; but the output as yet is small. The raising of sugar beets and flax culture promise well. The population of the county is 30,192. There are over twenty thousand acres of state school lands and twenty-five thousand of government lands in Polk county. The railroad has two hundred and twenty thousand acres for sale here. Abundant land can be obtained from eight to ten miles back from the railroads at low prices, ranging from five dollars per acre upward.

Pope.

Pope is one of the counties which might properly be included under the park region. It contains something like seventy-five lakes, some of them exceedingly beautiful, and the general features of the county are surpassed by few. The northern portion is prairie, but all is rolling, with fine groves of timber about the lakes. The streams are mostly small. The soil has all the fertility of this fine central region of the state. Pope is a great wheat-growing county, its product running over one million bushels annually. Diversified farming is now gaining great headway, and stock raising is an important factor of industry. The grade of cattle has been very much improved, a fine quality of Jerseys and Holsteins being now common. Land, when improved, ranges from ten dollars to fifteen dollars per acre, wild land being purchasable at as low as six dollars. Considerably less than half the surface of the county is under cultivation, although its population is 10,032. The state has, in round numbers, six thousand acres of its lands remaining here, and the railroad, to which this country is tributary, has thirty thousand acres.

Ramsey.

Important as the county of the capital city of the state, Ramsey county is of less interest to the agriculturist, because it is the smallest in area of all the counties of Minnesota, and every inch of the surface is owned by private parties. About a third of its surface may be described as flat, while the remainder is hilly, becoming broken near the Mississippi. There are scattering forest growths in various parts of the county, and a large number of small lakes, which have

been turned into pleasure resorts by the people of St. Paul, or utilized for purposes of city water supply. Agriculturally considered, Ramsey is a desirable county, because its soil, though light, is fertile. Of course all that part of it which is not included in the city limits, or in the districts occupied by the suburban towns, is under high cultivation. Market gardening is the important industry here, and any farmer wishing to remove to Minnesota, and being possessed of capital enough to secure a small farm in Ramsey county, could make a handsome income by supplying the wants of city tables. Of course there are no lands to be had in Ramsey county except at good round prices. Yet its dense population, the heavy commercial and manufacturing interests of St. Paul and the centralization of wealth and energy, are no small factors in conducing to the farmer's prosperity by creating a great home market. Population, 139,536.

Redwood.

It lies south of the Minnesota river, and belongs in the rich southwestern sections. The crops are those common to the region, including all the small grains, wheat, corn, rye, barley, oats and flax, which last is growing rapidly in favor. The county is well watered by small streams, has good markets of its own and is surrounded by railroad lines. It is another large county, only about one-sixth of whose surface is cultivated by its population of 9,386 people. Sixty per cent of its population are Americans, the remainder being Germans and Scandinavians. There are seventy-eight schoolhouses in the county. In few districts are there better opportunities for settlers. About two thousand acres of state lands are unsold.

Renville.

Renville, which is one of the larger counties of the state, lies along the northern bank of the Minnesota river, south of the central portion. Its general character is that of a prairie county, although there is plenty of timber along the river. Like all its neighbors, Renville relies mostly for its prosperity upon the ordinary products of agriculture, and, like them, it has learned that there is money in diversified farming. Renville is a great wheat county, and its annual product is over one million five hundred thousand bushels. Im-

proved land is worth from fifteen to forty dollars an acre. The county is so large that about two hundred and fifty thousand acres are still uncultivated. The state has three thousand seven hundred acres here, and four thousand acres remain belonging to the railway. The acreage under cultivation has been increased by the drainage and cultivation of so-called slough lands which have turned out to be the most valuable in the county. The population in 1890 was 17,099, consisting of Scandinavians, Irish and Americans. The dairy business is a rapidly growing industry, and there are several creameries recently erected at a cost of four thousand dollars each.

Rice.

One of the most thickly settled and highly developed of the agricultural counties of the state is Rice. It is rolling prairie, with high bluffs along the Cannon and Straight rivers, and with ample woodlands crowning its rolling surfaces. The prairie predominates in the east, and timber land in the west. The county has been thoroughly opened up, and is well under cultivation. The staple grains are raised in abundance, and stock raising is making here the same progress that is recorded of it everywhere in southern Minnesota and in much of the northern part of the state. Improved farm lands are worth from twenty-five dollars to fifty dollars an acre, and little is unimproved. This is a county of many villages and cities of considerable size, its population being 23,968. Its county seat is distant but fifty-five miles from St. Paul, and it has almost the advantages of a suburban region. State and railroad lands have been taken up, but the county has good opportunities for farmers with capital enough to purchase improved lands near to markets, and with all the advantages of an old community. The county produces fine limestone and other stone suitable for building purposes.

Rock.

Rock county occupies the extreme southwestern corner of the state, bordering on Iowa and South Dakota. It is a prairie county, like northern Iowa, exceedingly well watered, and cut north and south by great trunk railway lines. The richness of its soil and its promise for agricultural pursuits are remarkable. The soil is a deep

sandy loam with clay subsoil, producing in profusion anything that can be grown in a temperate latitude. It is also a splendid country for stock raising. A crop failure has never been known in Rock county. Its population is 6,817, and there are fifty-eight schoolhouses. Wild land, owing to its fine quality, has been sold at from ten dollars to twelve dollars per acre. Most of the land in Rock county is held by private parties, with the exception of some small scattered tracts owned by a railroad land company.

St. Louis.

There is not a county in Minnesota which offers such a magnificent field for enterprise, industry and the investment of capital as does St. Louis county. It is the great mining field of the state, and the splendid deposits of iron ore and other minerals known to exist and now partially developed within its borders will, in the near future, make it the wealthiest county in the United States. It is making rapid advances in population and prosperity, and the advantages it offers to settlers possessing a small capital and to miners and mechanics cannot be excelled. While it cannot be called an agricultural county, it has a large extent of well-watered farm lands. It is mostly given up, however, to mining and lumbering interests. The forests contain a vast amount of pine and hard wood, and the Vermillion and Mesabi iron ranges offer immense fields for the opening up of mines. The county promises to be one of the wealthiest in the state, but its agricultural development will probably be subservient to its mineral and lumber interests. Any general judgment pronounced upon a county so large and so little known as St. Louis is at the present time would be unjust. What it may be able to do for agriculture is entirely uncertain, except that it can be stated that this industry flourishes within the state in other counties in the same latitude. The city of Duluth, at the southern extremity of this county, is one of the most important in the state. It is the greatest interior market and shipping point for wheat in the United States, and, being situated at the head of navigation, is the seat of immense and constantly increasing manufacturing industries. These will be much augmented in the future, on account of the wonderful iron ore deposits described fully in the introduction to this work. There is every reason to believe that the development of agricultural interests will soon follow the development of the mines. An

immense amount of land is available in St. Louis county. The state has 2,174 acres, and the government offers one million five hundred thousand acres. The railroads own 267,560 acres. These lands are destined to grow in value and desirability with the general progress of the state.

Scott.

Scott county was formerly a woodland, but is now occupied by fine, well-watered farms. The surface is partly hilly and partly undulating. The soil is very fertile, and nine-tenths of it is suitable for cultivation. This county lies in the Big Woods belt, all of which has been found admirably adapted for agriculture after it has been cleared. Wheat and the small grains form the staple crops; but this being one of the circle of counties surrounding the great cities of the state, a considerable part of its area will ultimately be utilized for the production of commodities for city supply. Its county seat is but twenty-eight miles from St. Paul. This gives it great advantages, which it well deserves by nature. In the population of 13,831, Germans predominate. The county is well developed. It has sixty-six schoolhouses, and its people are intelligent and progressive. Improved farm lands in choice locations near the many railroads that traverse the county, and along the fertile bottoms of the Minnesota river, run from forty dollars to forty-five dollars per acre. Wild lands are for sale cheap. Public lands are practically exhausted in the county.

Sherburne.

About half its area is level prairie, and the other half covered with small timber. In the northeast there are some towns with a heavy growth of hardwood. The soil is generally sandy and productive. The dairy business has obtained a strong hold upon the farmer, whose crops have been mostly small grains and potatoes. The county is well watered with numerous lakes and small streams. The inhabitants are small farmers in moderate circumstances. The majority are foreign born, mostly Scandinavians and Germans. In the western part of the county is an excellent granite quarry, which is now being worked. The county could sustain many times its present population of 5,908, which is massed principally along the Mississippi river. Very large crops of potatoes are produced, from

which starch is made; one factory in the county used ten thousand bushels for this purpose. On account of their entry by speculators before the homestead law, much land is now vacant, offering to those seeking homes or farms in the vicinity of our large cities unusually favorable opportunities. These lands must in the immediate future be very desirable for gardening, dairying, etc., for city consumption. The county seat is only forty miles from St. Paul. About six thousand acres are the portion of the state school fund. The railway companies have 6,842 acres in this county. The local rate of taxation in Sherburne is the lowest in the state, and settlers of small means can engage profitably in stock raising, for which the county is admirably adapted.

Sibley.

Sibley county has a gently undulating surface, with the four eastern townships mostly timbered, and the remaining thirteen prairie land. It is all well watered, with some fine lakes. It is devoted to the cultivation of the small grains, principally wheat, the crop of which exceeds one million five hundred thousand bushels annually. Over one million bushels of oats are produced also, and the county is thoroughly devoted to agricultural pursuits. The population is 15,199, and the people are uniformly prosperous. There are good opportunities to purchase farms in this region, improved land averaging about twenty-five dollars an acre. The county seat is distant but fifty-eight miles from St. Paul, with a freight rate of nine cents per hundred. Of this fertile agricultural region less than two hundred acres are included in the state school lands, and 504 acres in the holdings of a railway land company.

Stearns.

Stearns county is a rolling district, half prairie and half timbered with hardwood, almost surrounded by the Mississippi, Crow and Sauk rivers. It ranks high in the state in point of population and wealth. The county is essentially agricultural, producing in the neighborhood of two million bushels of wheat annually, with corresponding quantities of oats, barley and other grains. It has also made remarkable progress in stock raising of the better sort. This is

encouraged by an abundance of hay of a fine quality. Many farmers are engaged in raising blooded horses and cattle. While the county is essentially an agricultural one, there are immense granite ledges in various parts, which furnish a variety of building stone. St. Cloud has become an important centre for all kinds of manufacture that can be carried on in a new country. It is only recently that the granite deposits of this county have been quarried in considerable quantities. Over one thousand men are now engaged in this employment. It is claimed for the red granite of Stearns county that it is the finest in the United States, and equals the best Scotch granite in strength and durability. It is used in some of the finest structures in the large cities of the state. One-fifth or more of Stearns county is under cultivation, and is occupied by 34,844 people. There is yet some railroad land to be purchased.

Steele.

Steele county is chiefly rolling prairie, with a belt of timber along the Straight river. The land is of the productive variety found everywhere throughout southern Minnesota. Farming industry is well diversified. All the cereals are cultivated, but there is a general tendency toward an increase in stock raising. Farms are mostly small, running from eighty to one hundred and sixty acres each. Good land can be had at from twenty dollars an acre upward, according to improvements. This is another of those counties which are on the line of intersecting railway systems, and are so well developed internally as to have good established markets of their own. Crops have been good for many years, and it is stated by a representative citizen that there has not been a foreclosure in the county for a long time. Steele county lands are mostly appropriated, but good farms, however, can be obtained at fair prices.

Stevens.

Stevens county adjoins the park region counties on the south, and might properly be included in that division of the state. It has an extremely fertile soil, of the rich, black, gravelly loam which belongs to all these Western prairie or semi-prairie districts. The county is well watered, and is traversed in both directions by im-

portant railway lines that give it the advantage of competition. Wheat has been its staple product, the yield of the county running from half a million bushels annually upward. The other small grains are cultivated, and, as in all neighboring counties, stock raising and mixed farming are the rule of the day. A large proportion of the people, who number 5,251, are Scandinavians and Germans. Only about one-fifth of the county is tilled, and it offers fine opportunities to thousands of settlers. Its central markets and its railway connections secure good prices for grain. Wild land can be bought for from five dollars to twelve dollars an acre, and some improved land is for sale at higher prices. There are over ten thousand acres of state lands remaining in Stevens county, and thirty thousand belonging to the railroads.

Swift.

Swift is a rich and well-watered prairie county, in the basin of the upper Minnesota river. Its level surface is pleasantly diversified with lakes, and is penetrated by numerous streams. Two considerable tributaries of the Minnesota, the Chippewa and Pomme de Terre rivers, traverse it. Like most of the newer counties, its principal crops in the past have been small grains. Of late years the farmers have been converted to the wisdom of raising live stock and have found it profitable. The sugar beet is raised in Swift county, and about four thousand acres of flax were cultivated last year. The population is 10,161. Good roads have been laid out, and excellent schools are found throughout the county, the number of schoolhouses being seventy-five. Immigration has been constant all years. The wheat crop alone runs over one million bushels a year. The cheapest unimproved lands are five dollars to fifteen dollars per acre. There are still in this county some government land. The railroads have forty-two thousand acres of valuable land within reach of its lines of road for the settler. There are seven villages in the county, the principal of which are Benson and Appleton.

Todd.

Todd is a level county, well timbered, with a clayey soil, very productive. Thirty-three per cent of the population consists of Scandinavians, Poles and Germans. In addition to the agricultural

industry, the cutting of timber in winter gives employment to about twenty-five portable steam sawmills, which require about twenty men to each mill. This county offers all the opportunities that a new, fertile and diversified district can present. There are about twenty thousand acres of school, and 5,619 acres of internal improvement lands in Todd county. The government still has title to 5,240 acres, while the railroads have about forty thousand acres of fine land to be disposed of. Improved land is worth about ten dollars per acre, while less desirable properties can be had for half that figure. Numerous well-built and prosperous villages have sprung into existence and much farming land has been taken up. The cultivation of dairy products and roots, principally potatoes, is largely on the increase and the county is rapidly filling up.

Traverse.

Traverse county is a vast area of well-watered and fertile farm lands, where the opportunities of a new country are admirably combined with those of a country long settled. It lies on the western boundary of the state, just south of the uppermost county of the Red River Valley region, and has many of the qualities of that singularly fertile country. Farmers have been uniformly successful, crops have never been less than the average of the state, and there is room for a large population, in addition to the 4,516 people whom the county contained at the date of the last census. The average price for wild lands is put at ten dollars per acre, with lands under cultivation proportionately higher. There are good roads and fine schools, and this county is far from what people usually understand as a frontier district. It has about ten thousand acres of state school lands remaining, while forty-six thousand acres of the railroad grants are in the market. Land sales in this district are heavy and increasing.

Wabasha.

Wabasha, one of the Mississippi river counties of southeastern Minnesota, is a high rolling prairie, skirted by valleys, through the principal one of which runs the Zumbro river. It is timbered with oak and other woods in quantities sufficient for fuel. This is one of the old counties of the state, settled by immigration up the

river, and from one of the first railways constructed into the state from the outside. There are fine farms in the valleys, and the aspect of the county is that of a flourishing region in one of the Middle states. Railroad facilities are ample, and these, together with local development, give good markets for products. The population of Wabasha county is 16,972. There are less than three hundred acres of state lands and no railroad lands for sale in the county.

Wadena.

Wadena is one of the newer agricultural counties. It is mostly a timbered country, though there is a great deal of prairie land, upon which grow the rich and abundant native grasses of this region. The soil is black, sandy loam, with a clay subsoil. All grain crops yield heavily here, and a large amount of stock is raised. The population of Wadena county is about five thousand, and it has thirty-two schoolhouses. Nearly all of the settlers here came with nothing but their hands and their industry to rely on, and are comfortably settled to-day. Lands are for sale in Wadena county at low rates. The railroad has 154,555 acres of land to be disposed of in this fine county.

Waseca.

About one-third of the surface of Waseca county is level prairie, and the remainder is pleasantly varied. The soil is a fertile, gravelly loam, and the county is watered by the Le Sueur river. In the northwestern portion is a good growth of timber. The county is well developed, having a population of 13,313, with plenty of good cities and towns. It is a great wheat-growing country, but interest has been turned latterly more toward dairy farming and stock raising. The county seat is but seventy-six miles distant from St. Paul, and the typical products show a good profit in agriculture. Improved land is worth from twenty-five dollars to thirty dollars per acre, and land unbroken can be had for ten dollars or less. The amount of state lands is inconsiderable.

Washington.

It is largely woodland with some good prairie land, the latter offering fine, well-watered farms. The farmers in general are well-to-do, and while the raising of general farm produce is the chief occupation, stock raising has been tried with great success. Nearly all the land in the county is improved. This fact, with the excellent schools provided everywhere, makes it a desirable county to settle in. The population is mostly persons of foreign nationalities. The important city of Stillwater, situated in Washington county, is a large manufacturing centre, with great lumber mills and other factories, giving employment to thousands of men. This, together with the fact that Stillwater is distant but twenty miles from St. Paul, makes this county one of the most advantageous for residence in the state. It has now a population of 25,992, and in its local markets the highest prices are obtainable for farm produce at any season of the year. As yet scarcely half its total surface is under cultivation. The county has nearly nine thousand acres of school and internal improvement lands remaining, and the railroad owns one thousand two hundred acres in the county. This is one of the group of counties surrounding the central cities of the state, which will always invite and receive a liberal immigration.

Watonwan.

In the centre of southern Minnesota lies Watonwan, a prairie county, watered by three branches of the Watonwan river. It has very fertile land, and is level prairie, except a few timber groves along the bottoms of the streams. The soil is a heavy loam on a clay subsoil, and the crops are wheat, oats and flax for the outside markets. Less corn is raised than in the other counties of southern Minnesota. Fine and cheap lands are to be had here. The county is not more than one-quarter under cultivation, and has good railroad communications with the north and east. A correspondent says: "By diversified industries our farmers are in good shape financially. Most of them are out of debt, with a balance in the bank. Mortgage foreclosure and sheriff's sales are back numbers and a curiosity." There are 7,746 people in the county, mostly Germans and Scandinavians in the eastern half and Americans in the west. There is room for many times this number. Wild land sells at from

ten to fifteen dollars and improved land at an average of about twenty dollars per acre. There has been no crop failure outside of the years of the grasshopper invasion long ago, now almost forgotten. Land in Watonwan county is mostly in the hands of private individuals.

Wilkin.

Wilkin is a thoroughly prairie county. It marks the upper end of the Red River Valley country. The eastern part of the county is occupied mostly by Scandinavians, and the remaining population is mixed. Wheat raising is the principal occupation of the farmers. The crop is heavy, and the average yield, year in and year out, is an assured reliance for the farmer. This is the least populous of the Red River Valley counties, its inhabitants numbering 4,346, and there is room for all who may come. Its county seat is 217 miles from St. Paul. The state school, university and internal improvement lands amount to over thirty-seven thousand acres. There are 2,180 acres of government land, and the railroad has seventy-six thousand acres still undisposed of. Fine farming land can be purchased here at low prices.

Winona.

Winona county is an undulating tableland. On the top of its bluffs is rolling prairie, which has practically all been taken up, the county being one of the oldest and best settled in the state. It is an excellent place for stock raising. Oats and corn are staple crops, as well as wheat. The valleys are exceedingly fertile, and the agricultural industry is as well diversified as the surface of the country itself. The population is 33,797, and these people enjoy all the comforts and conveniences of an old community. There are 117 schoolhouses in the county, and the schools at Winona, including one of the state normal schools, have a high reputation. Farm lands range from fifteen dollars to forty dollars per acre, exceeding that price in the neighborhood of the cities. There are two thousand acres of school lands in the county undisposed of.

Wright.

Wright county was primarily a part of the Big Woods, but has been cleared, and is now under cultivation. It is thickly studded with lakes, well watered with streams, and bordered on the northeast by the Mississippi river. These lakes are well stocked with fish, large quantities of which are shipped to the market in season. Several of Wright county's lakes have become well known, and are destined to be popular summer resorts. The soil is rich and adapted to the raising of all kinds of grain. Although the county was settled as early as 1855, only a portion of it is under cultivation. Scandinavians predominate among the farmers, and wheat is a staple crop, being over one million bushels annually. The railroad has ten thousand acres for sale here, and the nearness of the county to the great cities of the state, together with the excellent natural qualities of the land, make it very desirable. The population is 24,164. There is but little school land remaining in the county. The price of farming land is from fifteen dollars to forty dollars per acre. There are several competing lines of railway. Mixed farming is on the increase, and farmers do not confine their crops only to wheat as formerly. The farms are mostly small and a great quantity of stock is raised in the northern districts.

Yellow Medicine.

Yellow Medicine is one of the fertile prairie counties, stretching from north to south along the western frontier. It is watered by the Yellow Medicine and Minnesota rivers, which have timber enough along their banks to answer for fuel. The agricultural products are the cereal grains, wheat being a great staple, and corn a good second. Flax is now being raised more generally. Crops have been good for ten years, and the people, consisting of Scandinavians, Americans and Germans in about equal parts, are flourishing. The population of the county is 9,854. As in all the other counties of the western tier, there are especially attractive opportunities for settlers. It is a new country, and not one-fourth of the surface is under cultivation. Land is cheap. In the eastern part of the county improved land is worth on an average twenty dollars an acre; in the western part it does not command more than from ten dollars to twelve dollars. There are over nine thousand acres of state lands in Yellow Medicine county, and a very large quantity is owned by the railway company.

MINNESOTA IRON MINES.

THE past year has witnessed the discovery and rapid development in this state of the greatest iron ore district in the world. More iron ore has already been discovered on the Mesabi iron range than has been produced from the entire Lake Superior region in the past fifty years. Minnesota holds third place in the production of iron ore, and will take first rank before the year 1900.

Already the United States is the world's leader in the production of iron ore, pig iron and steel. This proud position has only been attained within the past five years, but it is now held so firmly that it is certain to be maintained. The growth of the iron industry in this country has been no less solid than it has been rapid, and there is every reason to expect a continuance of increase in the consumption of iron. If, then, the remarkable statements made at the beginning of this article are true, there are in northern Minnesota natural resources which, properly utilized, will win greater fame and wealth for the state.

A year ago there was not a railroad constructed to any of the mines; not a village plat laid out; not a shaft for hoisting ore; not a steam pump or boiler on the entire range. Now the number of mines preparing to market their ore exceeds forty.

Many mines have already made shipments of their ore, and others are soon to follow. The wilderness of a year ago is a wilderness no longer. Churches have been dedicated and school has been taught, where twelve months ago the monarch of the forest and the wild beasts were the only inhabitants. Soon a net-work of roads will cover this territory, and a region that would otherwise long have remained desolate will now become one of the busiest, most thickly settled portions of the state, contributing of its wealth and resources to all parts of the country. All these events are the result of the discovery of iron ore. It is found here in such purity, such quantity, such accessibility as has never been found before.

Hematite ore is not a new discovery in Minnesota. Since 1885 the Vermilion range, which lies north of the Mesabi range about twenty miles, has been pouring its iron treasure into the yawning mouths of the hungry furnaces of the East. To render this ore

accessible, the Duluth & Iron Range railroad was constructed north from Lake Superior to the mines on Vermilion and Long lakes. The ore on the Vermilion range occurs in vertical lens-shaped deposits surrounded by green schist or greenstone. It is all hard hematite, though the Chandler ore at Ely has been crushed by natural forces into small fragments of hard ore. Mining on this range is conducted at great expense, due to the necessity of going to great depths and hoisting both ore and water a vertical distance of several hundred feet. The ore is remarkably pure, however, and has been in great demand by furnace operators.

The amount of ore mined and shipped from the Vermilion range since 1885 exceeds five million tons. In 1892 the shipments were 1,167,650 gross tons. The iron mining industry supports a population of about thirteen thousand people at Tower, Soudan, Ely and Two Harbors. A large amount of capital is invested in the mines, railroad, rolling stock, docks and steamships of the company operating these mines. If an average annual production of seven hundred thousand tons supports a population of thirteen thousand, how many people will be supported by an annual output of four or five times that amount, when a large part of the ore is manufactured at the head of the lake?

It is an interesting fact that the Mesabi range was crossed by the railroad in going to the Vermilion range, and for seven years the railroads have been hauling ore from a point twenty or thirty miles beyond the accessible deposits of the Mesabi. It seems providential that the discovery of the latter ores should have been delayed until the mines of other iron districts were becoming exhausted and the annual consumption of Bessemer iron had increased to a point where it began to be in the minds of many a serious question where the ore supply was coming from in a few years.

The Mesabi deposits differ from the Vermilion in being nearly flat instead of vertical. This renders very deep mining and costly pumping and timbering unnecessary. The ore differs also in being chiefly soft, occurring in fine grains, blue, black, red or yellow, like sand. It can thus be handled easily, and does not require much blasting to mine it nor any crushing afterward. It contains very little moisture, phosphorus, silica, sulphur or other deleterious ingredients. Some of the newly-made iron princes who are not familiar with the fact that pure hematite is a chemical compound of iron and at least thirty per cent of oxygen, will insist that the ore of their mine contains eighty or ninety per cent of iron, while others will tell you their ore contains "all the phosphorus you want," ig-

norant of the fact that the average steel manufacturer does not want any. It is the minority instead of the majority who do not know that a Bessemer ore contains less than one part in a thousand of phosphorus.

Although in flat beds, the deposits occasionally have a depth exceeding one hundred feet, and there are single forty-acre tracts on the Mesabi which contain more than ten million tons of ore within one hundred and fifty feet of the surface. The ore is found as a rule beneath sand and gravel, varying in depth from a few inches to one hundred feet. Where the covering is light it will be stripped and the ore will be mined in open pits. Where the surface is deep it will be necessary to resort to underground mining and the cost will be greater. There will thus be a variety of methods employed for getting out the ore.

Mines are now being opened and prepared for shipping in six different townships, over a length of fifty miles east and west. Three different railroads cross the range, and two others are either in course of construction or about to begin. The largest docks in the world are in process of erection at Oneota, while other docks are already built at Two Harbors and Allouez bay. Last year the Mesabi shipments amounted to 4,245 tons. This year it is expected there will be about six hundred thousand tons shipped. Two mines are sending their ore to the furnace at West Duluth, which has made a success in running on unmixed soft ore from the Mesabi range. Furnace trials made in the East last fall proved that the new ores work well in the furnace and make a fine grade of iron.

Mixed with the hard ore from the Vermilion range these soft ores can be used for every kind of iron and steel. There is even the manganese ore and manganiferous iron ore to make "ferro" and "spiegel" for steel manufacture.

The geology of the Mesabi range, the origin of its ores and their quality are all discussed in the twentieth annual report of the state geologist. It is enough to say here, that it is not an unexpected thing, nor contrary to any geological theories to find this iron ore in these flat beds.

The quality of Minnesota iron ores is above the average of other districts in the Lake Superior region, which is the finest in the world. As stated above, it is impossible to have more than seventy per cent of iron in a hematite ore. A sixty per cent ore, therefore, has but ten per cent of impurities. There are millions of tons now in sight that will average sixty-four or sixty-five per cent metallic iron. Such ore makes the best steel, and can always find a market.

The fear is frequently expressed that it is possible to find too much iron ore, and that the price will decline until there will be no profit whatever in mining it. In view of the enormous quantity already discovered, and the probability that there is yet more to be found, this idea has weight and deserves careful consideration.

A recent editorial in the *Iron Trade Review* of Cleveland stated that the Lake Superior region will be called upon to furnish nearly seven million tons of Bessemer ore this year. It gave statistics and figures to show the total amount of Bessemer ore in sight in all the mines of this region, and arrived at the conclusion that there is enough to last only five years, at the present rate of consumption. But this is not all. Mr. R. H. Edmonds, in the *Engineering Magazine* for April, makes the following statements:

"The consumption of iron not only increases with the increase in population, but the rate of consumption per capita has steadily increased for many years. Should the rate of gain between 1890 and 1900 be as great as between 1880 and 1890, the production of pig iron in 1900 would be twenty-four million tons. Should the actual increase in tons only be equal to the actual increase in 1890 over 1880, the total output in 1900 would be 15,370,000; basing their calculations upon the average rate of increase in iron consumption for the last forty years, the Hon. Abram S. Hewitt and Mr. Edward Atkinson estimate that the production of pig iron in this country in 1900 must be from seventeen million to nineteen million tons."

To produce seventeen million tons of pig iron there will be needed more than thirty million tons of iron ore. The present consumption of the United States per annum is about one-half that amount, and the production of pig iron in 1892 about nine million tons. About three-fifths of the iron ore used in this country is supplied by the Lake Superior region. In the year 1900 it will be necessary to produce eighteen million tons of iron ore, according to the figures of the best statisticians in the iron business. Does that look as though it were possible to find too much iron ore? Suppose two hundred million tons are found on the Mesabi, it will not last a generation at that rate.

There is another phase of this question. If it is impossible to compete with other ores in the Eastern market, it is only necessary to build our own furnaces and factories and supply our own Western market. As a matter of fact, we could do better than that, and by the mere saving in freights could compete with Eastern products in many instances as far east as Buffalo and Pittsburgh. By this means we should not only derive a direct profit from our iron ores, but a

far greater benefit indirectly in the development and settlement of the northern portion of our state. There is no industry which is of such great importance to a community as the manufacture of iron products. At the present time this industry is in its infancy in our state. Large amounts of capital are required to establish such industries, to build railroads and docks, and the thousand and one things incidental to the development of a new branch of business. And in this direction Minnesota offers a magnificent opportunity for capitalists, investors and manufacturers.

Board of World's Fair Commissioners.

By an act of the legislature approved April 20, 1891, the Governor of Minnesota was authorized to appoint six citizens to act as a board of World's Fair commissioners.

Soon after the adjournment of the legislature, 1891, Gov. Wm. R. Merriam appointed the following board: D. A. Monfort, St. Paul; Jay La Due, Luverne; C. McC. Reeve, Minneapolis; J. J. Furlong, Austin; A. L. Ward, Fairmont; Geo. N. Lamphere, Moorhead. *Ex-officio:* M. B. Harrison, Duluth; O. V. Tousley, Minneapolis, members of the National Board. *Alternates:* M. N. Leland, Wells; Thomas Kurtz, Moorhead. The Governor is also *ex-officio* member of the board.

The vacancy in the National Board by the death of Mr. Harrison was filled by the appointment of H. B. Moore, Duluth.

The board organized by electing the following officers: D. A. Monfort, president; Jay La Due, vice president; C. McC. Reeve, secretary; J. J. Furlong, treasurer; L. P. Hunt, superintendent state exhibit.

The act provided for the appropriation of fifty thousand dollars with which to pay the expenses of the exhibit, but the commissioners, believing this sum insufficient to properly represent the state, secured one hundred thousand dollars by subscriptions among the counties in proportion to their assessed valuation of taxable property. The last legislature appropriated this amount and so reimbursed the generous citizens who had made it possible for the commissioners to carry out the plans which resulted in the Minnesota exhibit.

This voluntary action is a tribute to the sagacity of the board and the patriotism of the state.

In connection with the Board of Commissioners the Women's Auxiliary Board has worked zealously that the achievements of the gentler sex in Minnesota might be properly compared with those of women in other states and countries. The board consists of Mrs. F. B. Clarke, St. Paul; Mrs. Henry F. Brown, Minneapolis; Mrs. A. T. Stebbins, Rochester; Mrs. L. P. Hunt, Mankato; Mrs. Francis M. Crosby, Hastings; Mrs. Henry Hasenwinkle, St. Paul; Mrs. Florence Greenleaf, Minneapolis; Mrs. A. A. White, Moorhead; Mrs. George Forsyth, Brainerd.

The officers are Mrs. F. B. Clarke, St. Paul, president; Mrs. F. L. Greenleaf, Minneapolis, vice president; Mrs. A. A. White, Moorhead, treasurer; Mrs. L. P. Hunt, Mankato, secretary.